

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

TUI T. SUTHERLAND

ART BY MIKE HOLMES

WINGS OF FIRE

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



BOOK NINE
TALONS OF POWER

SCHOLASTIC

DISCOVER
THE WORLD OF
WINGS OF FIRE

BOOK ONE
THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

BOOK THREE
THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

BOOK FIVE
THE BRIGHTEST NIGHT

BOOK SEVEN
WINTER TURNING

BOOK NINE
TALONS OF POWER

BOOK ELEVEN
THE LOST CONTINENT

BOOK THIRTEEN
THE POISON JUNGLE

BOOK TWO
THE LOST HEIR

BOOK FOUR
THE DARK SECRET

BOOK SIX
MOON RISING

BOOK EIGHT
ESCAPING PERIL

BOOK TEN
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS

BOOK TWELVE
THE HIVE QUEEN

BOOK FOURTEEN
THE DANGEROUS GIFT

BOOK FIFTEEN
THE FLAMES OF HOPE

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER
DRAGONSLAYER

—————▶ GRAPHIC NOVELS ◀—————

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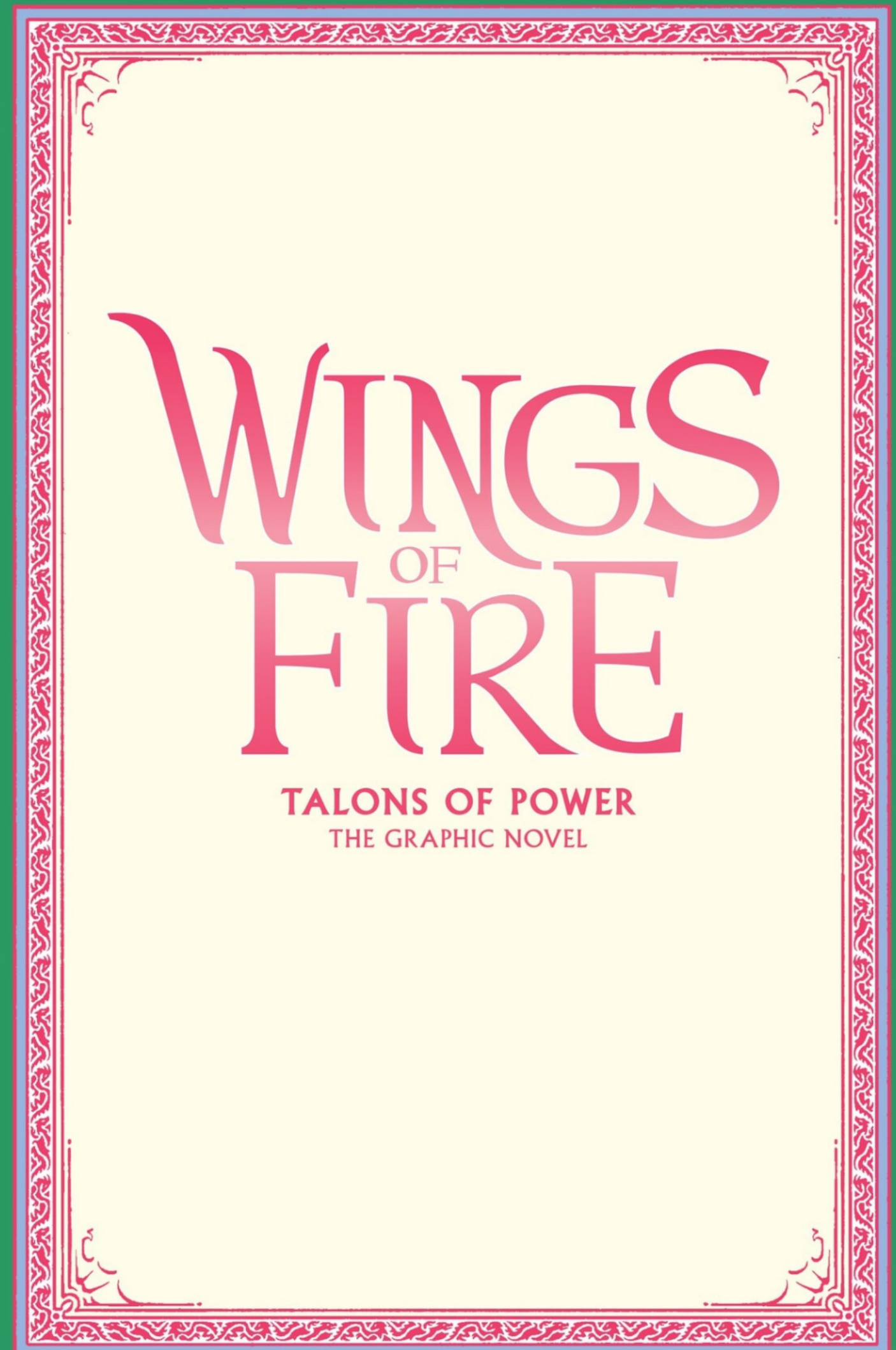
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BOOK FOUR
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BOOK SIX
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ESCAPING PERIL

LEGENDS
DARKSTALKER



For Alex, William, and Penelope, who are awesome!
—T.T.S.

For Meredith — you’ve made every year better than the last,
and you’ve done it without any magical powers. I think.
—M.H.

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WINGS OF FIRE

TALONS OF POWER
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY **TUI T. SUTHERLAND**

ADAPTED BY **BARRY DEUTSCH**
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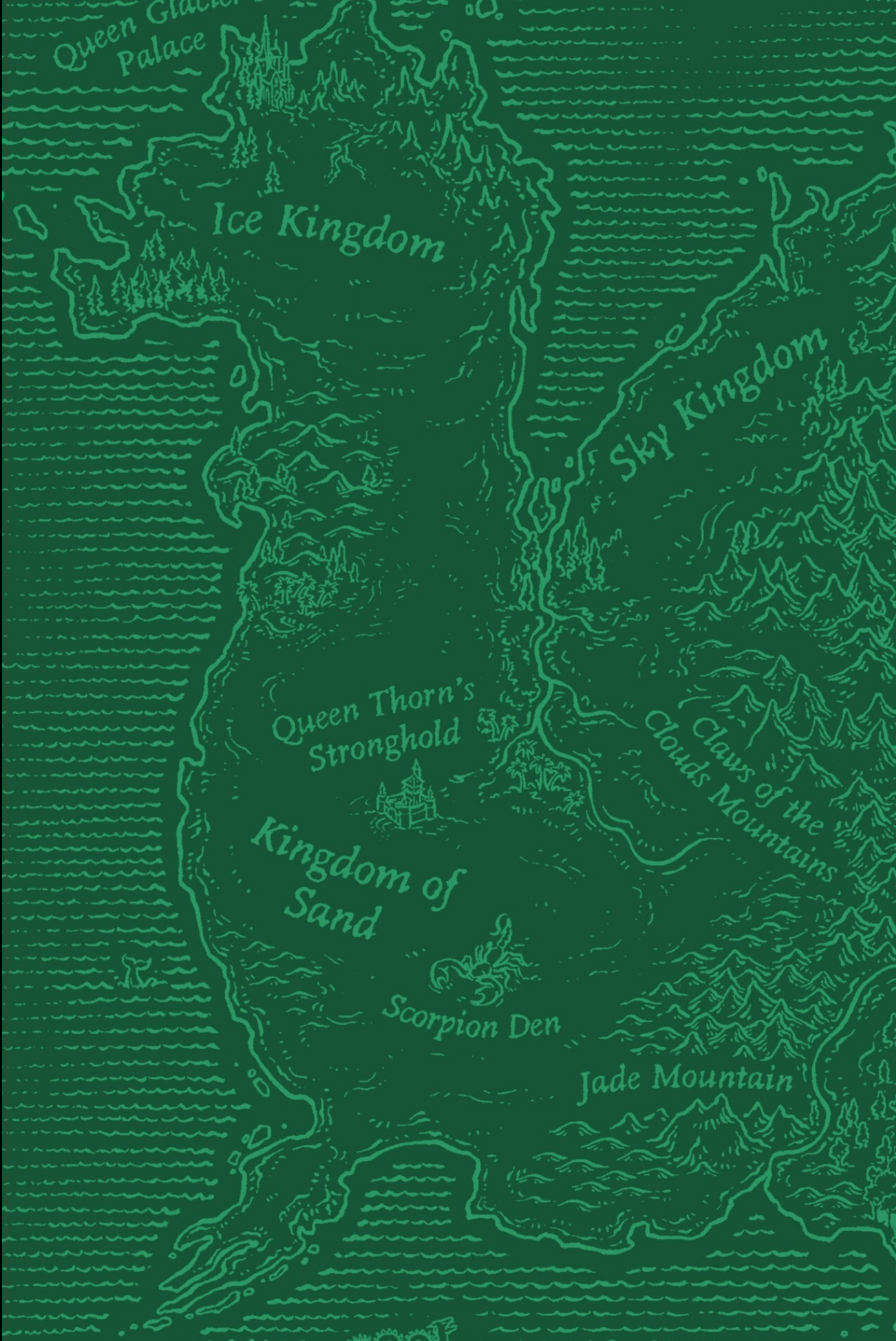
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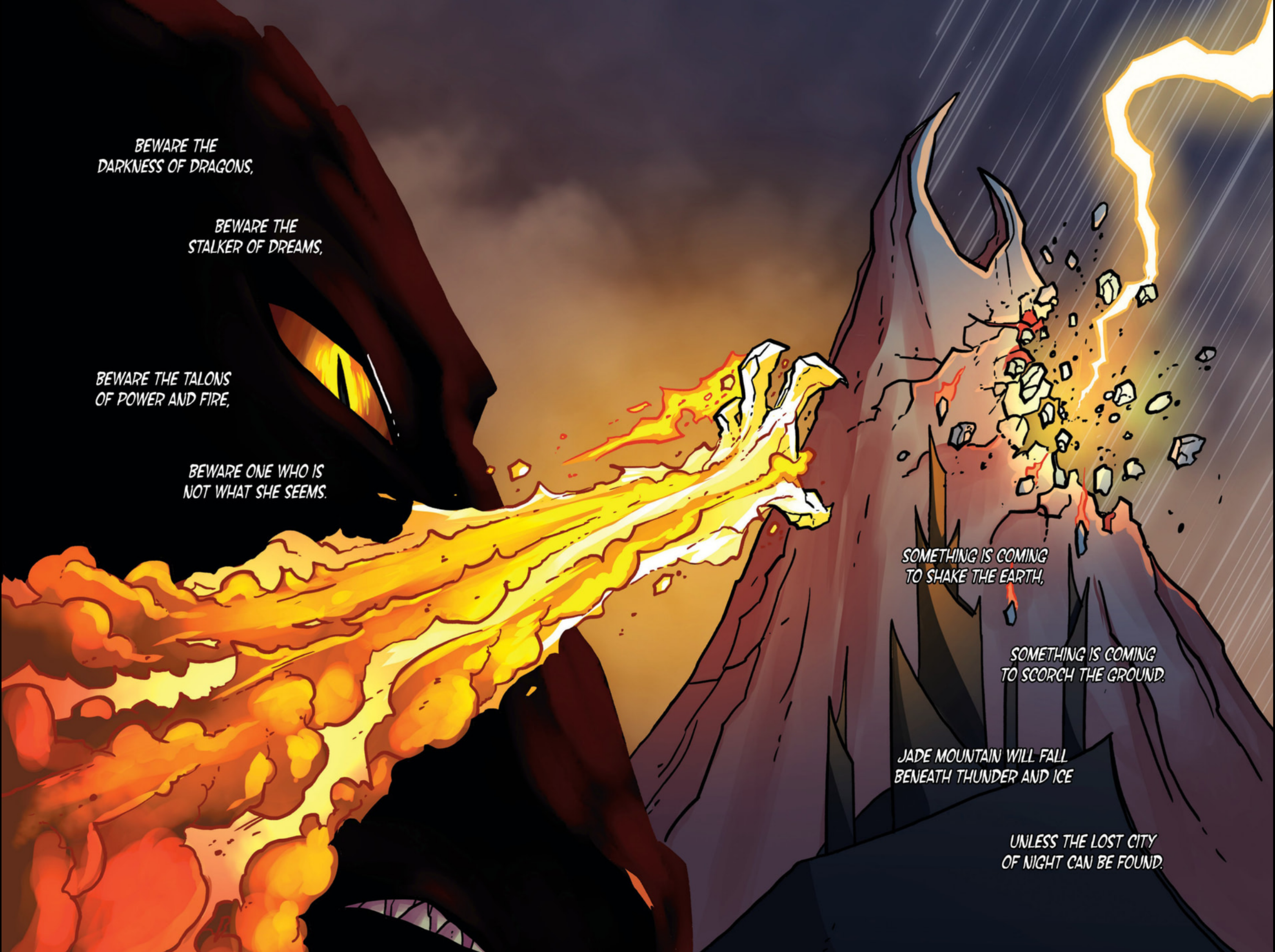
 **SCHOLASTIC**





TALONS OF POWER

THE JADE MOUNTAIN PROPHECY



BEWARE THE
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS,

BEWARE THE
STALKER OF DREAMS,

BEWARE THE TALONS
OF POWER AND FIRE,

BEWARE ONE WHO IS
NOT WHAT SHE SEEMS.

SOMETHING IS COMING
TO SHAKE THE EARTH,

SOMETHING IS COMING
TO SCORCH THE GROUND.

JADE MOUNTAIN WILL FALL
BENEATH THUNDER AND ICE

UNLESS THE LOST CITY
OF NIGHT CAN BE FOUND.

PROLOGUE

THREE YEARS AGO...

THE ROYAL HATCHERY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WARM, SAFE, AND PEACEFUL PLACE FOR EGGS TO REST BEFORE HATCHING. IT WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A DEATH TRAP THAT GAVE YOU THE CREEPS.

KING GILL'S WINGS TOOK HIM TOWARD THE HATCHERY AS THEY DID ALL THE TIME NOW, SOMETIMES FIVE TIMES A DAY.

GILL DIDN'T KNOW WHY THEY'D LOST SIX FEMALE EGGS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, OR HOW THEIR OTHER THREE DAUGHTERS HAD DIED. QUEEN CORAL WAS SURE AN ASSASSIN WAS KILLING THE SEAWING HEIRS. BUT WHO? AND WHY?

THE PALACES OVERFLOWED WITH SURVIVING PRINCES. KING GILL TRIED TO REMEMBER ALL THEIR NAMES—QUEEN CORAL DIDN'T BOTHER—BUT THERE WERE TWENTY-FOUR OF THEM ALREADY, PLUS THREE MORE WAITING TO HATCH IN THE CURRENT ROYAL CLUTCH.

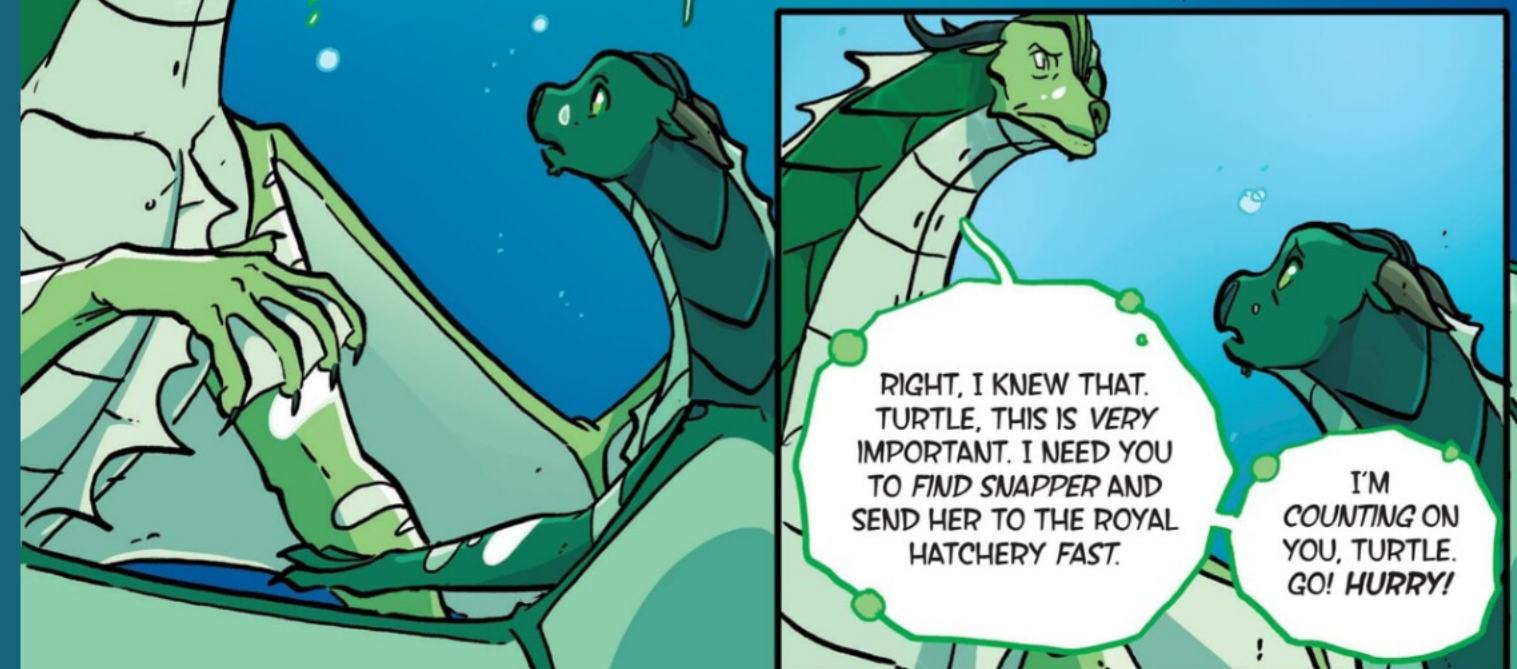
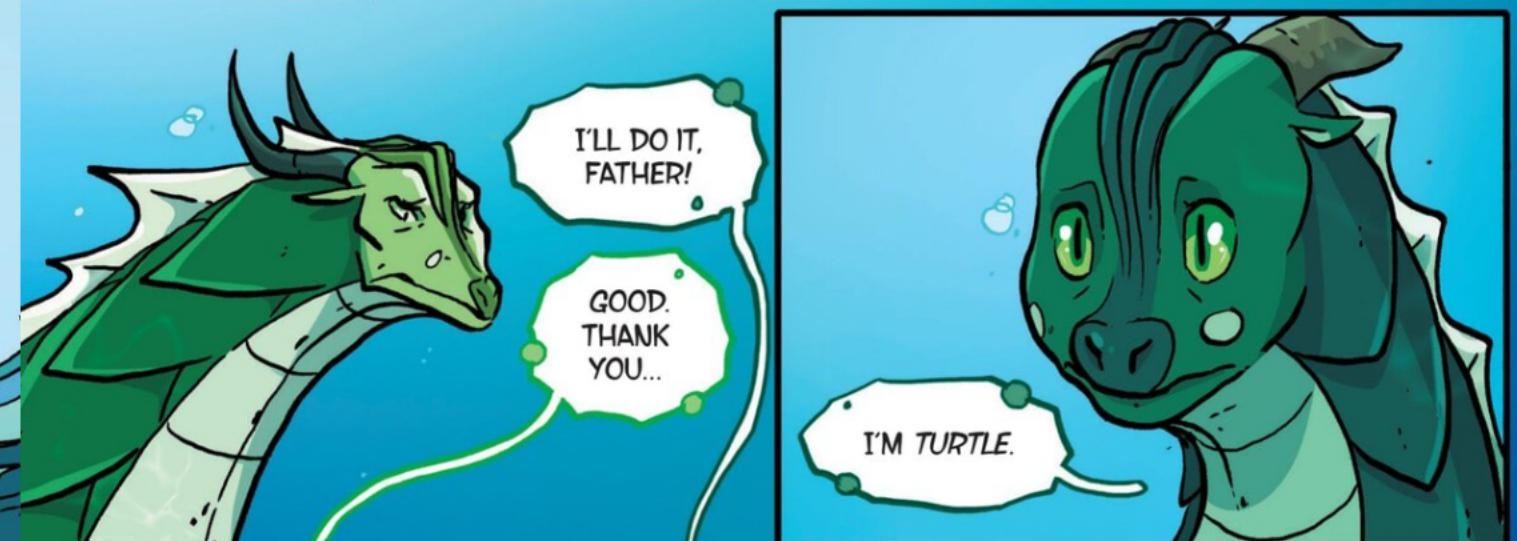
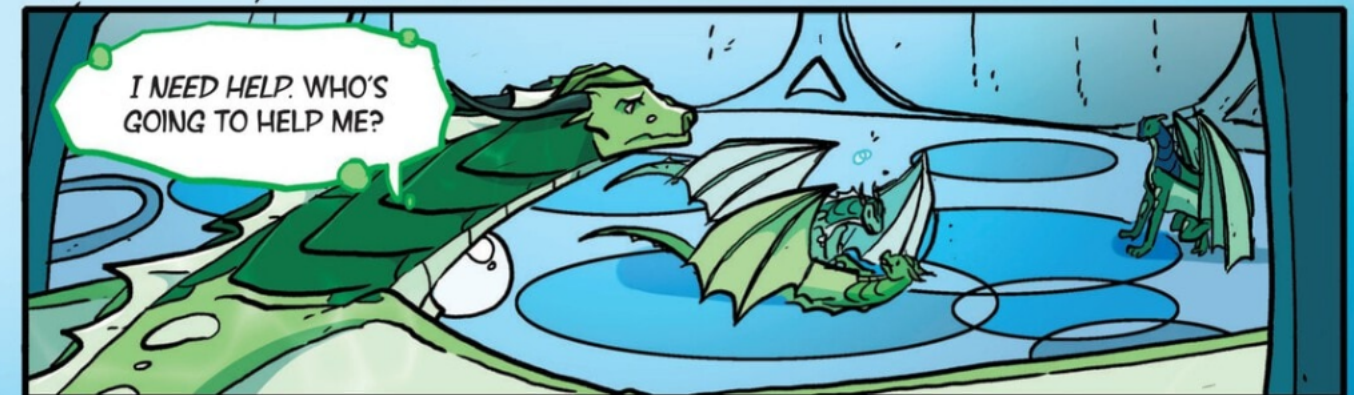
TWO FEMALE EGGS WERE WAITING TO HATCH IN THE ROYAL HATCHERY'S GENTLE CURRENTS. GILL HAD TALONPICKED THE HATCHERY GUARDS, ABALONE AND SNAPPER, FROM HIS OWN ROYAL GUARD. THEY ROTATED IN AND OUT OF THE HATCHERY SO SOMEONE WAS WATCHING THE PRINCESS'S EGGS AT EVERY MOMENT.

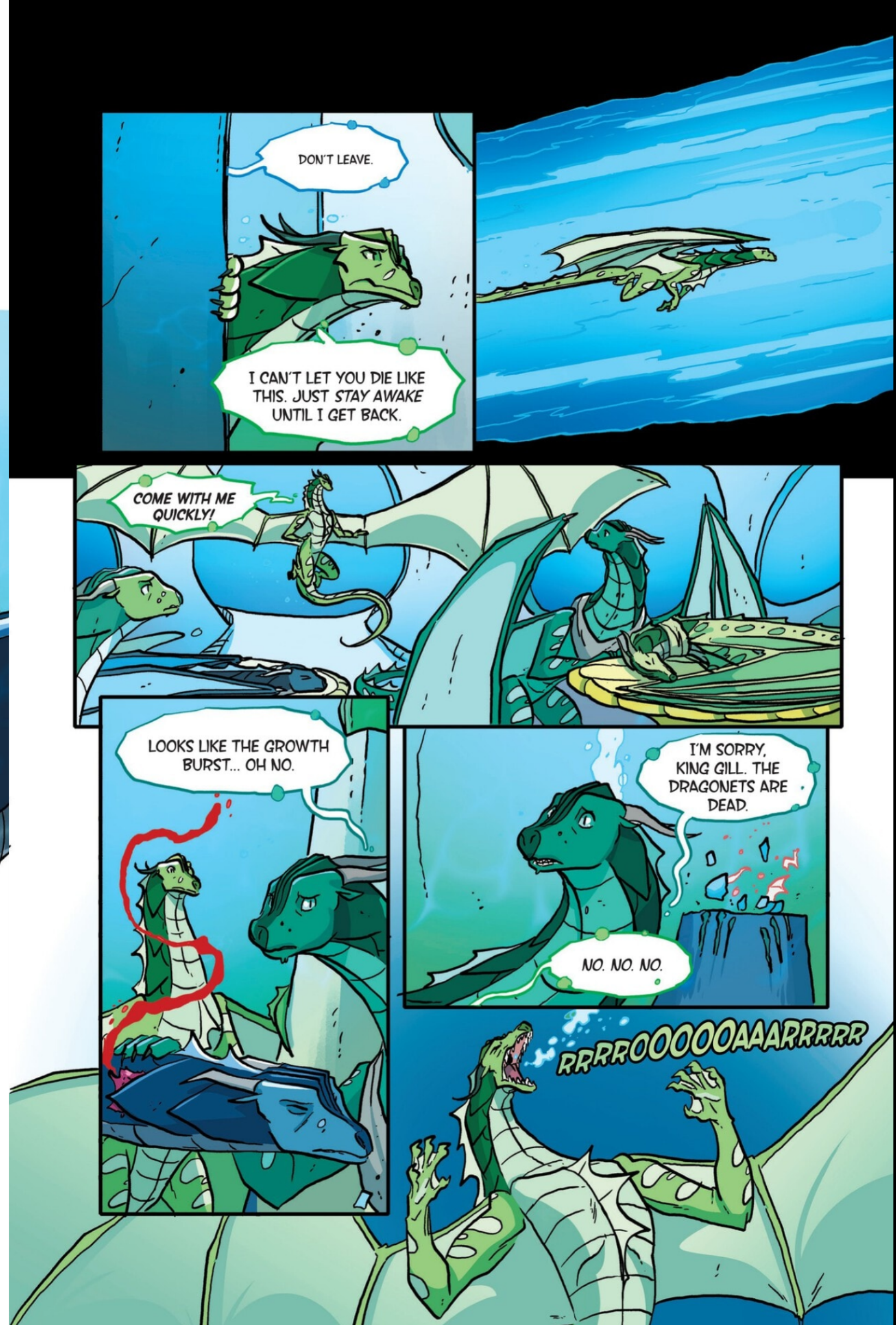
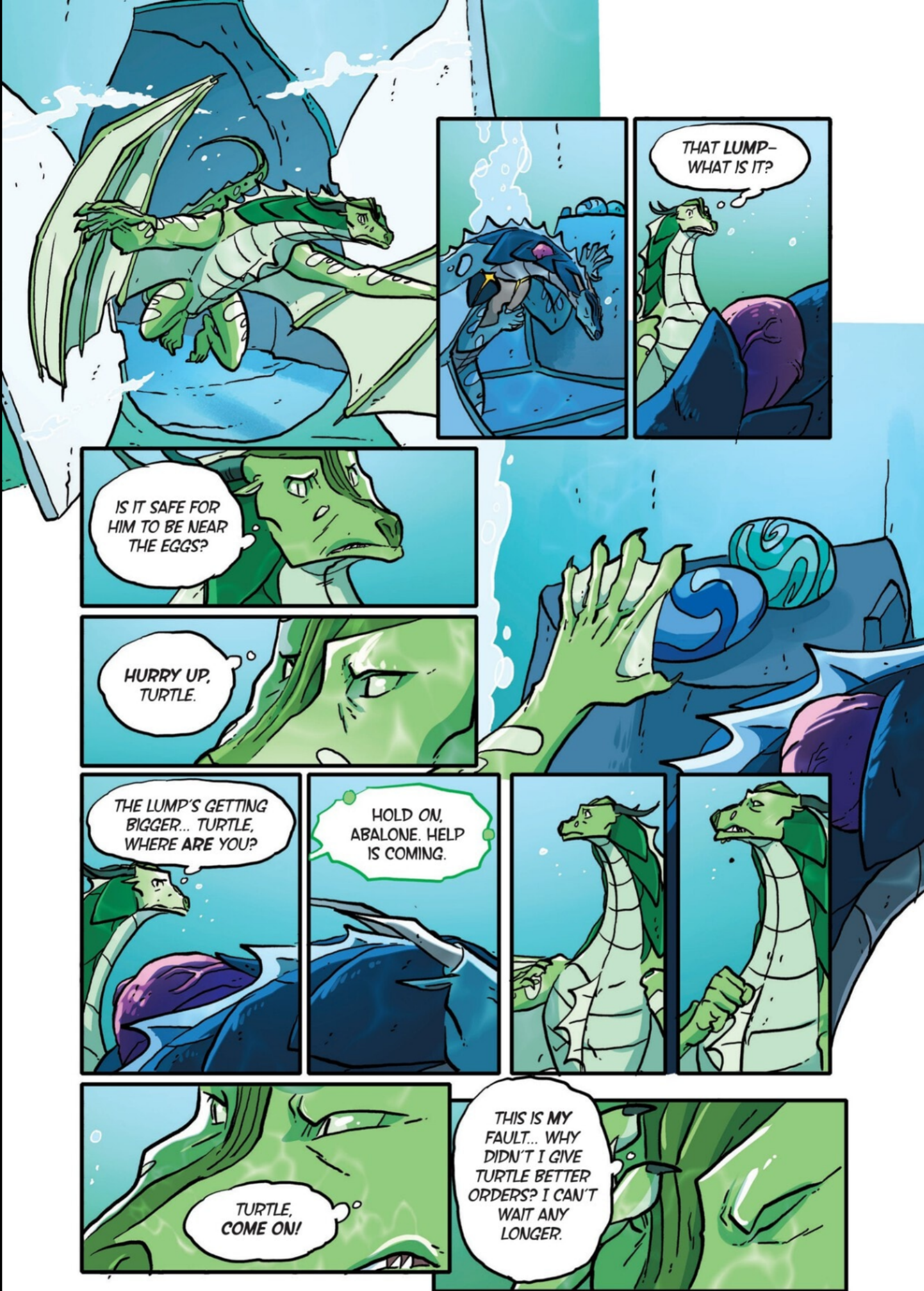
AND YET... GILL COULDN'T STOP CHECKING ON THEM. JUST TO BE SURE. TO BE SAFE.

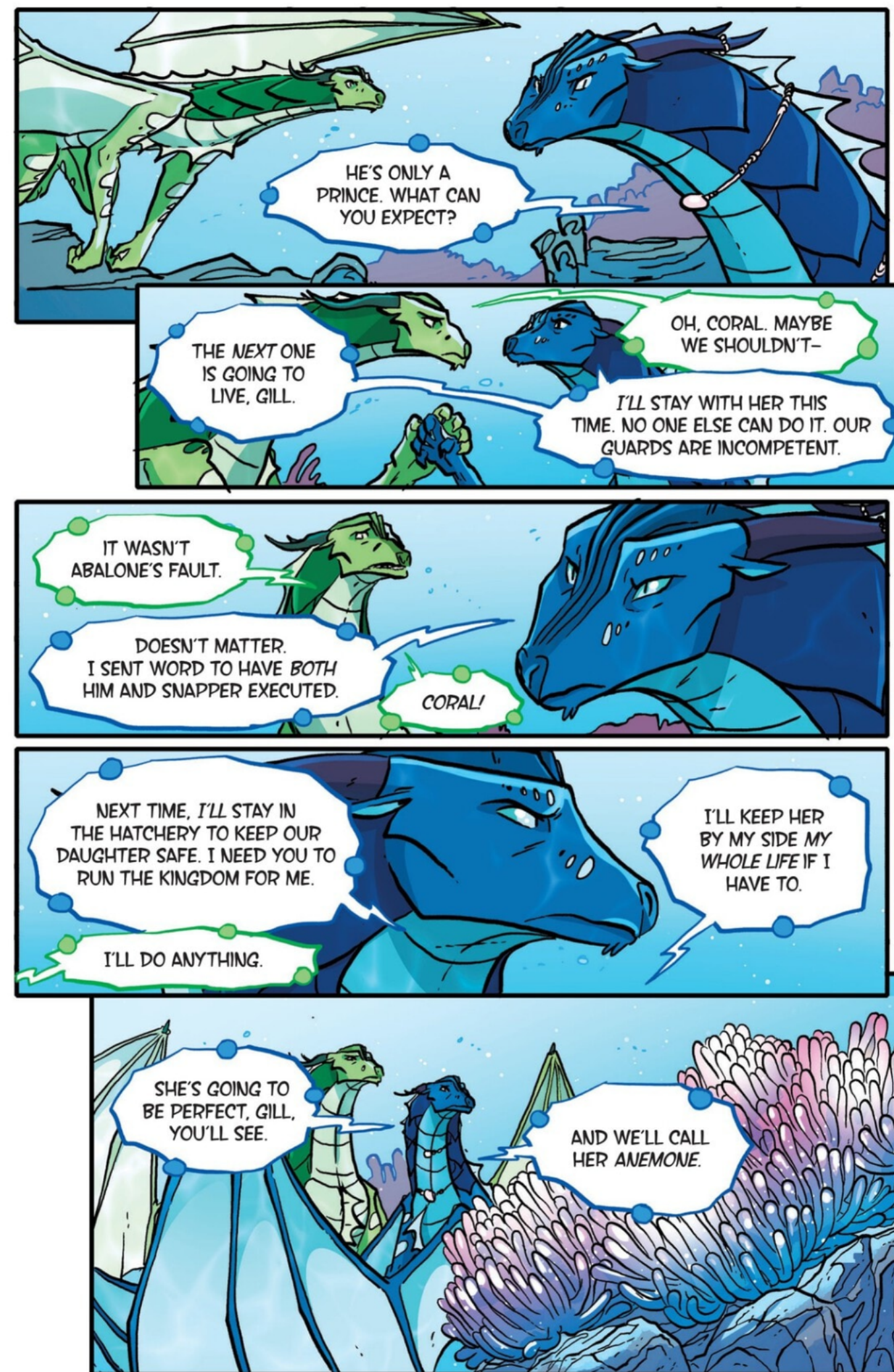
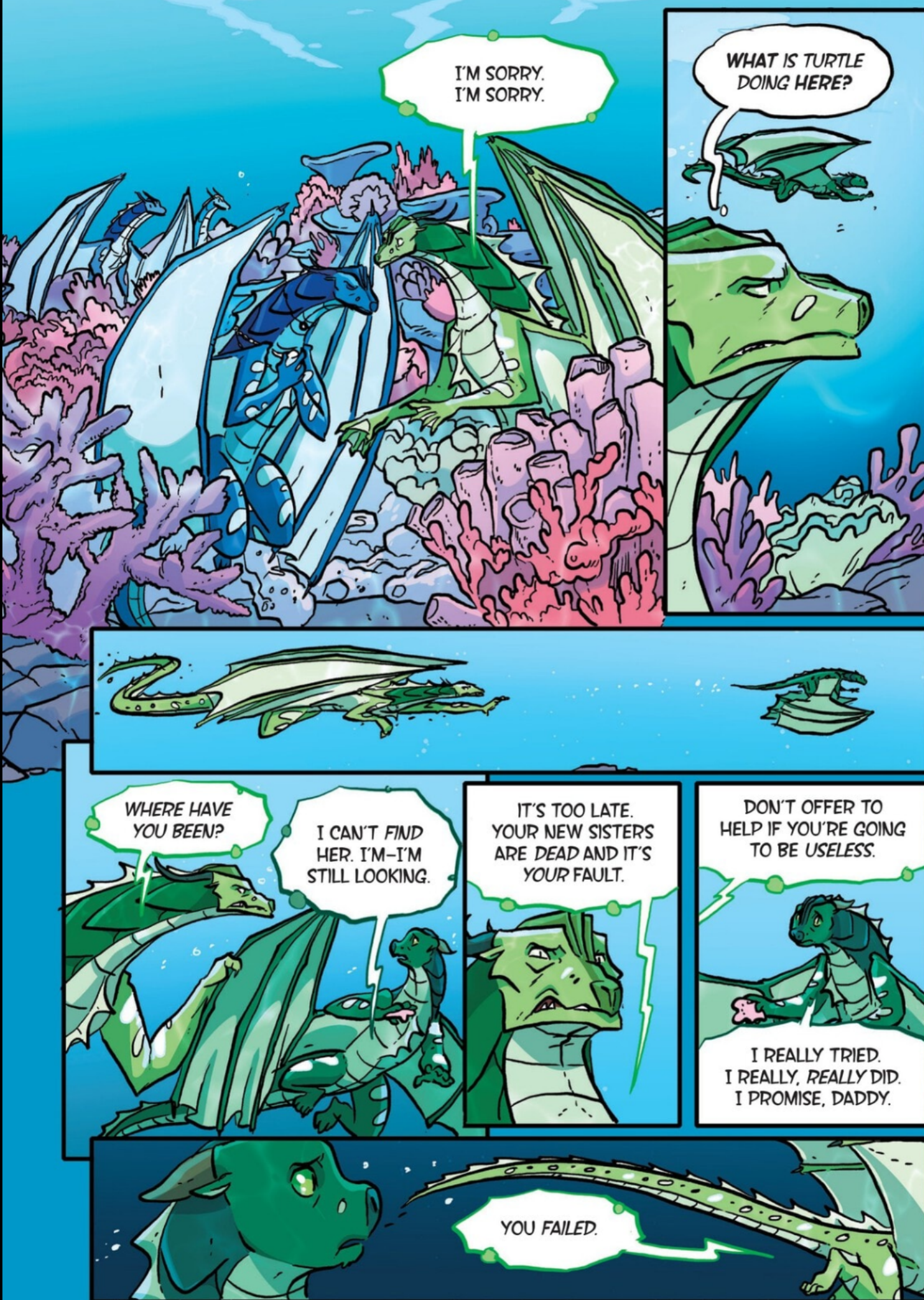
ABALONE?

EVERYTHING... SPINNING...

GROAN







PART ONE: A DRAGON AWAKES

I NEED TO
HIDE. I NEED
TO HIDE.

DARKSTALKER'S
GOING TO KILL
ME THE FIRST
CHANCE HE
GETS. I'M SURE
OF IT.

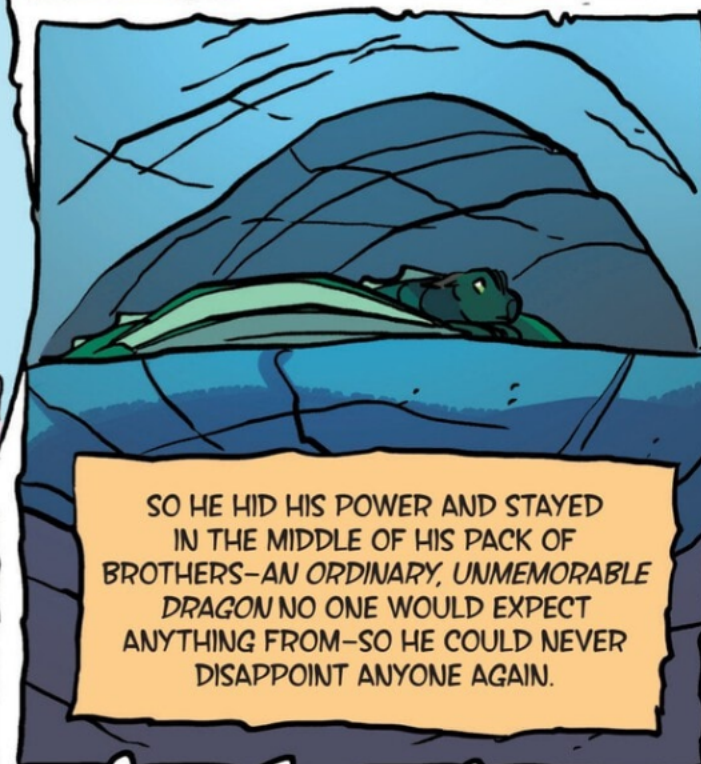
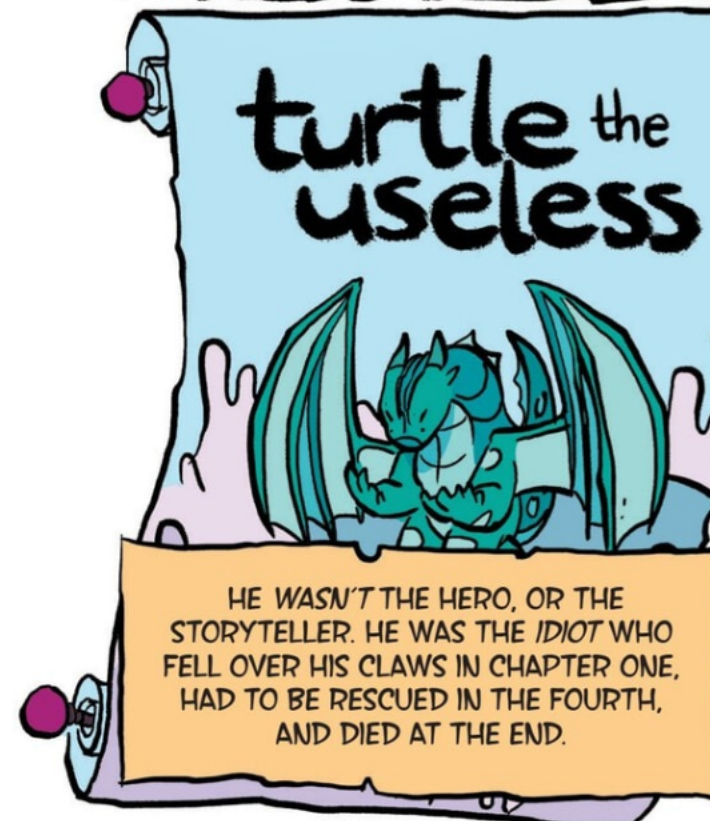
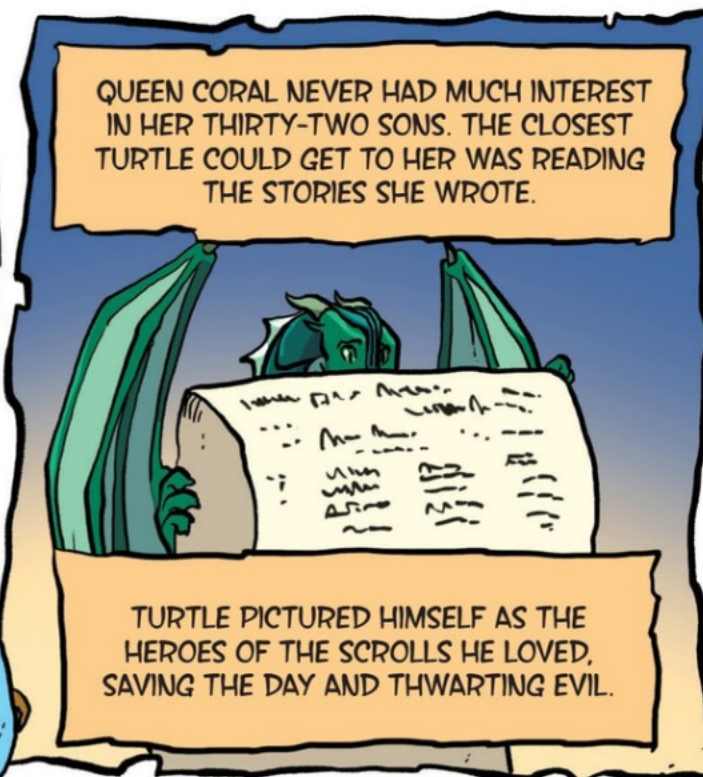
HE'S SMILING AT EVERYONE
ELSE—HE LOOKS DELIGHTED,
NOT MURDEROUS, BUT—

WHEN HE GLANCES AT
ME, THERE'S HATRED IN
HIS EYES. DEEP, FIERCE
HATRED.

HE'S THE MOST
POWERFUL
NIGHTWING WHO
EVER LIVED. AND
FOR SOME REASON
HE LOATHES ME
WITH ALL HIS
HEART.

WHY DID I EVER LET
ANYONE NOTICE ME? I'D BE
SAFE IF I'D STAYED BORING
AND FORGETTABLE.

THIS ISN'T HOW
I EXPECTED MY
STORY TO END.





WHY DID I EVER GET MYSELF INTO THIS STORY? I'M NO HERO—I'M THE ONE WHO GETS SACRIFICED SO THE REAL HEROES CAN GET ON WITH SAVING THE DAY.

HOW CAN I HIDE FROM A DRAGON WHO'S A MIND READER, AN ANIMUS, AND A FUTURE-SEER?



DARKSTALKER CAN'T READ MY MIND WHILE I'M WEARING MY SKYFIRE STONES. MAYBE I HAVE A MILLISECOND TO DO SOMETHING—ANYTHING—BEFORE DARKSTALKER FORESEES IT.



I ENCHANT THIS STICK TO HIDE ME FROM DARKSTALKER.



AH, THAT'S INFINITELY BETTER. NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, PERIL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.



OH, PERIL, NO, NO, NO. VERY BRAVE, BUT TSK TSK. INVULNERABLE SCALES HERE. ALSO, I'M YOUR FRIEND!



WEREN'T THERE... MORE OF YOU? WASN'T THERE SOMEONE I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO SEE?



DOES HE MEAN ME? I NEED A BETTER SPELL!



AS LONG AS THIS STICK IS NEAR ME OR TOUCHING ME, I ENCHANT IT TO HIDE MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE FROM DARKSTALKER.

THAT MEANS HE CANNOT SEE ME OR HEAR ME; HE CANNOT REMEMBER THAT HE'S EVER HEARD OF ME; HE CANNOT HEAR ABOUT ME IN OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS OR CONVERSATIONS; AND HE CANNOT SEE ME ANYWHERE IN HIS FUTURES.

I ENCHANT THIS STICK TO COMPLETELY ERASE THE DRAGON HOLDING IT FROM DARKSTALKER'S AWARENESS.



DID IT
WORK?



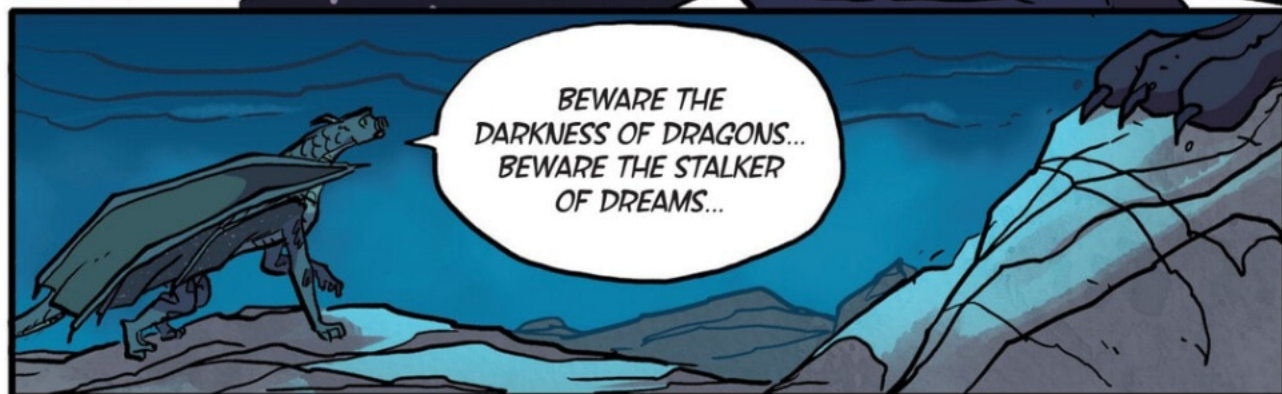
MOON! WE'RE FINALLY
MEETING! ISN'T THAT
AMAZING? WOW, YOU'RE
SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE.

THAT'S
YOU, ACTUALLY.
YOU'RE... A LOT
BIGGER THAN
YOU PROBABLY
REMEMBER.



WOW, I REALLY AM!
TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF
GROWING. I MUST BE THE
HUGEST DRAGON THAT
EVER LIVED!

ALSO THE OLDEST—
BY ALL THE SHINING MOONS,
I'M ANCIENT!



BEWARE THE
DARKNESS OF DRAGONS...
BEWARE THE STALKER
OF DREAMS...



OH, MOON, COME ON!
THAT PART OF THE
PROPHECY ISN'T ABOUT
ME. IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT
SCARLET, DON'T YOU
THINK? SHE WAS CHOCK-
FULL OF DARKNESS.



ON THE OTHER
HAND, SOMETHING
IS COMING TO SHAKE
THE EARTH? TOTALLY
ME. WATCH THIS!

STOMP
STOMP

STOMP



HOW DID YOU
GET OUT?

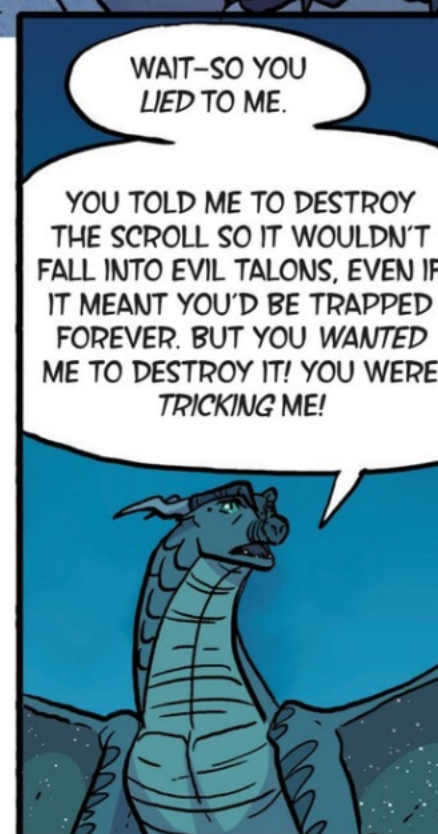
UH-OH.

I'M GUESSING
DARKSTALKER DOESN'T
LIKE ICEWINGS VERY
MUCH.



OH, THAT WAS PERIL.
WHEN SHE SET MY
SCROLL ON FIRE, MY
MAGIC RETURNED TO
ME SO I COULD FREE
MYSELF.

WASN'T THAT
KIND OF HER?



WAIT—SO YOU
LIED TO ME.

YOU TOLD ME TO DESTROY
THE SCROLL SO IT WOULDN'T
FALL INTO EVIL TALONS, EVEN IF
IT MEANT YOU'D BE TRAPPED
FOREVER. BUT YOU WANTED
ME TO DESTROY IT! YOU WERE
TRICKING ME!



YES, BUT LUCKY I DID,
RIGHT? OTHERWISE
YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE
FREED ME. NOT VERY
KIND, MOON.

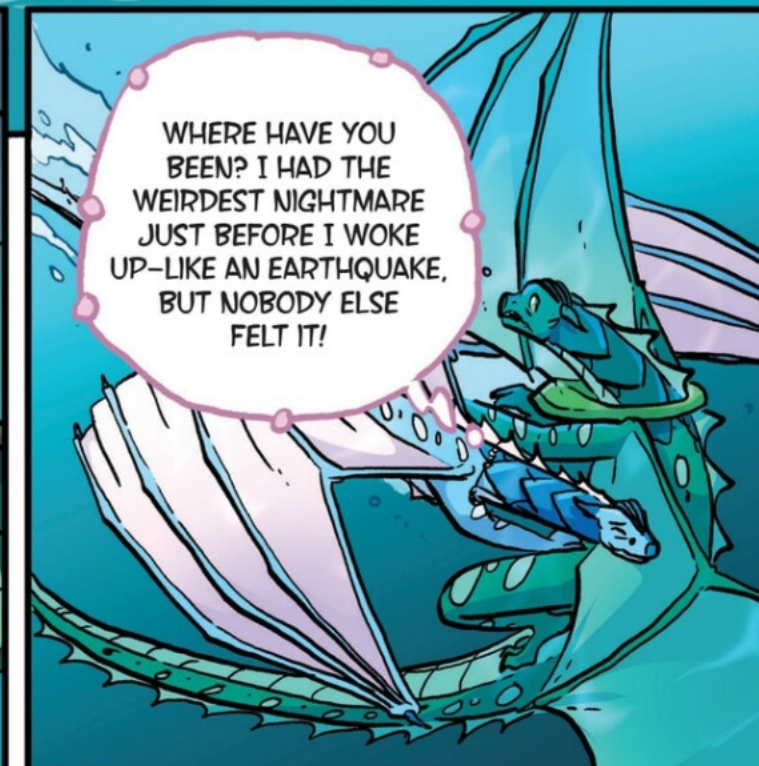
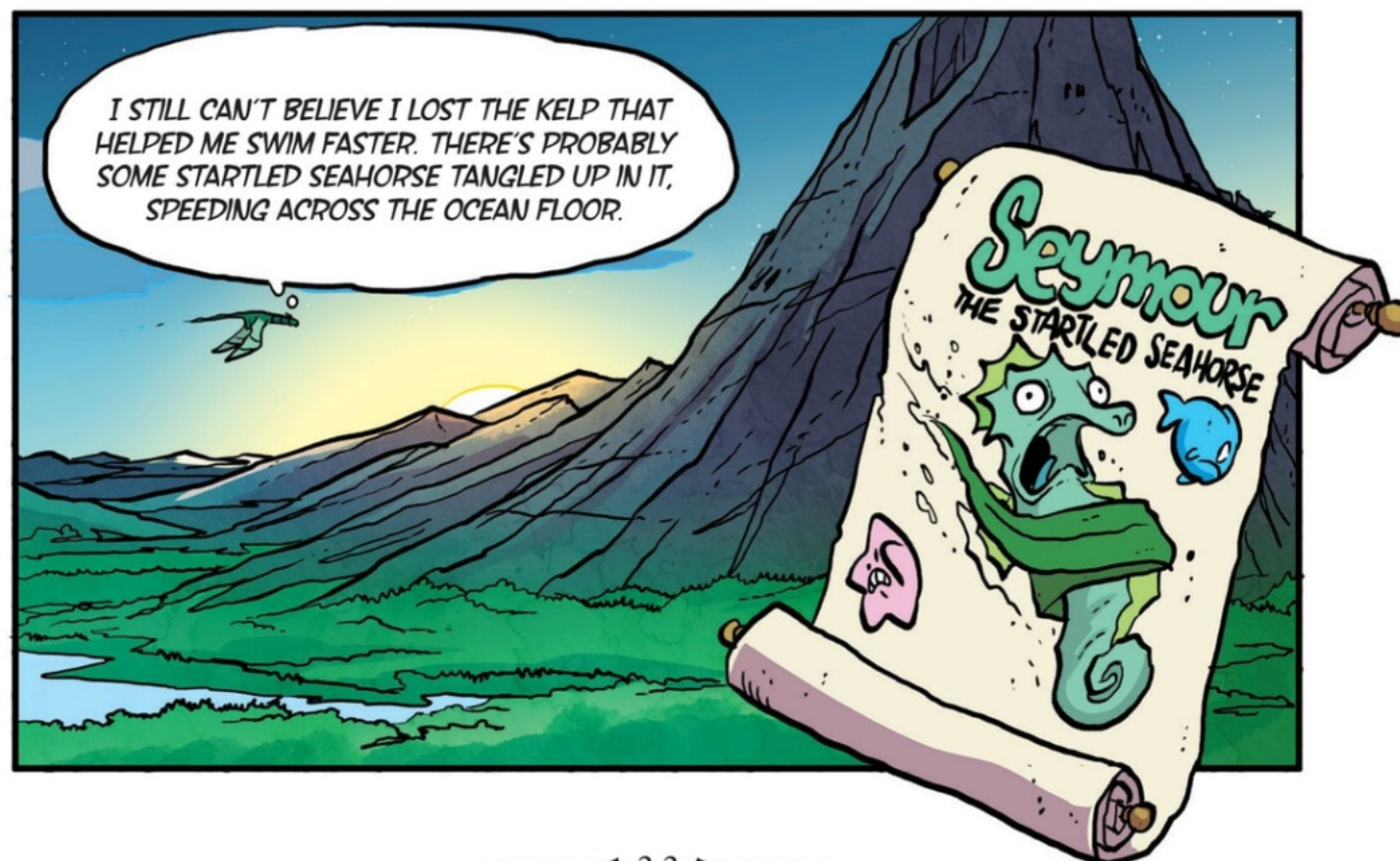
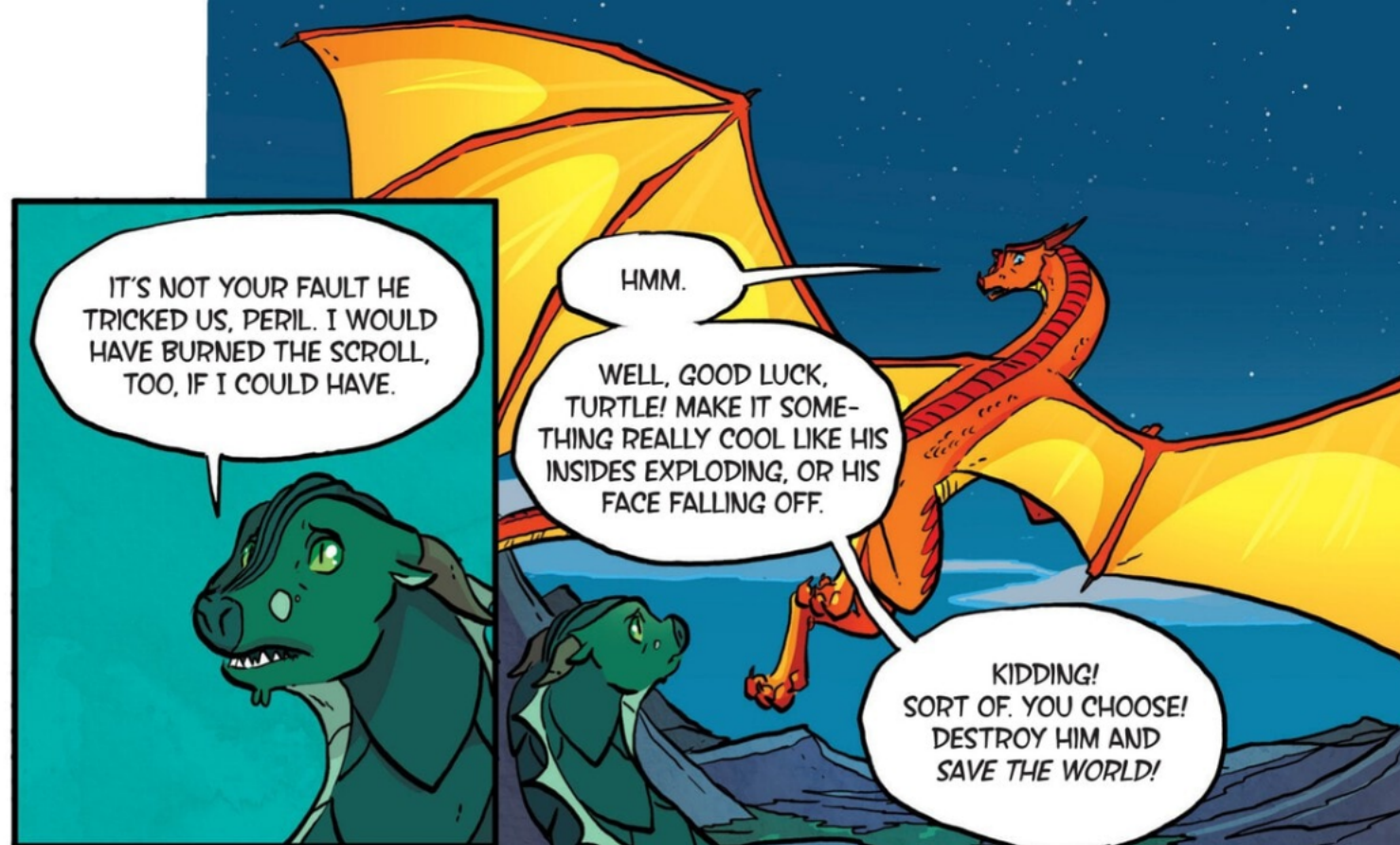


YOU SHOULDN'T
TRICK YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU ALSO SHOULDN'T
LEAVE YOUR FRIENDS
TRAPPED UNDER A MOUNTAIN
FOR THE REST OF THEIR
IMMORTAL LIVES. GOOD POINT,
DARKSTALKER.









ANEMONE, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

YOU ARE TALKING TO ME, FISHFACE. DID YOU FIND THE RAINWING YOU WERE MOPING ABOUT?



YOU MEAN KINKAJOU? IS SHE ALL RIGHT?



UH, SHE WAS ALIVE WHEN I SAW HER A FEW DAYS AGO, TAMARIN.

BUT IN A COMA.

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS SHE CAN.

IF JADE MOUNTAIN'S STILL HERE.



ANEMONE, COME FLYING WITH ME?

YOU'RE BEING SUCH A JELLYFISH, TURTLE. I DON'T WANT TO FLY. CAN'T YOU JUST SAY WHATEVER IT IS HERE?



MY SISTER'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE SHE GOT FREE FROM MOTHER'S HARNESS.

STUBBORN, PETULANT... THIS ANEMONE MAKES ME NERVOUS.

THIS ANEMONE MAKES ME FEEL GUILTY.



ALL RIGHT, FINE. YOU'RE IN DANGER AND YOU NEED TO LEAVE JADE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY RIGHT NOW.

AND GO WHERE? HOME? BACK TO HARNESSES AND BOREDOM AND MOTHER STARING AT ME ALL THE TIME?



DANGER? WHERE?



THERE'S A POWERFUL ANIMUS, DARKSTALKER. HE'S BEEN TRAPPED UNDERGROUND FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS. HE JUST ESCAPED AND HE SEEMS NICE, BUT—

AN ANIMUS?! REALLY?



YES, BUT A BAD ONE. LIKE ALBATROSS.

OH, HOW WOULD YOU KNOW? I'VE BEEN DYING TO MEET ANOTHER ANIMUS! I VISITED THE OLD FOSSIL LIVING IN THIS MOUNTAIN. HE WAS USELESS.



STONEMOVER'S HELPFUL ADVICE WAS TO NEVER DO MAGIC. HE WAS ALL, "LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO MEEEEEE," WHEEZE-MOAN-GLUG. HE PUT THAT STONE-SCALES SPELL ON HIMSELF! WHAT GOOD'S A PERFECT SOUL IF YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE?



TURTLE, IF THERE'S A REAL ANIMUS COMING, I WANT TO MEET HIM!

HE'LL PROBABLY KILL YOU! HE'LL SEE ANOTHER ANIMUS DRAGON AS A THREAT!

IF HE'S REALLY SMART, HE'LL SEE I'M AWESOME AND WANT TO GET TO KNOW ME.



ACCORDING TO HISTORY, HE KILLED HIS DAD—

HAS HE HURT ANYONE SINCE HE "ESCAPED"?

NO—BUT HE PROBABLY WILL—HE DOESN'T LIKE ICEWINGS AND HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.



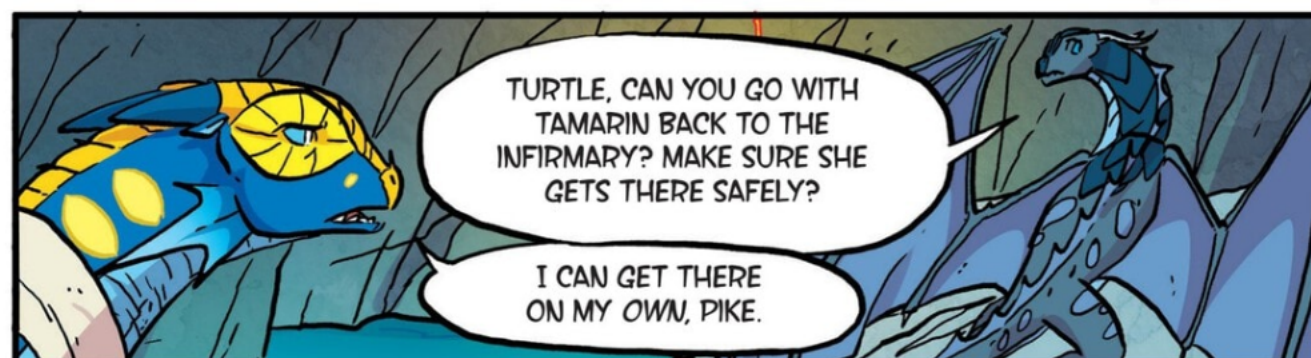
WELL, I'M NOT AN ICEWING OR PYRRHIA'S MOST BORING PRINCE. HE'LL LIKE ME JUST FINE.

THIS IS SO EXCITING! ANOTHER ANIMUS TO TALK TO! COME ON, PIKE! LAST ONE TO THE MAIN HALL IS A ROTTEN OYSTER!



I'VE CONSIDERED TELLING ANEMONE I'M AN ANIMUS A HUNDRED TIMES... IF I DO, WOULD SHE LISTEN TO ME ABOUT DARKSTALKER?

PROBABLY NOT.



TURTLE, CAN YOU GO WITH TAMARIN BACK TO THE INFIRMARY? MAKE SURE SHE GETS THERE SAFELY?

I CAN GET THERE ON MY OWN, PIKE.



I'VE TOLD HIM I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

SORRY, TAMARIN. I NEED TO GO THAT WAY ANYWAY.



SO IS KINKAJOU REALLY ALL RIGHT OR DID YOU NOT WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING?

SHE DID GET HURT. PRETTY BADLY.



SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS, BUT THE DOCTORS THINK SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF SHE WAKES UP SOON.

OH, POOR KINKAJOU! I WISH I COULD GO TO HER.



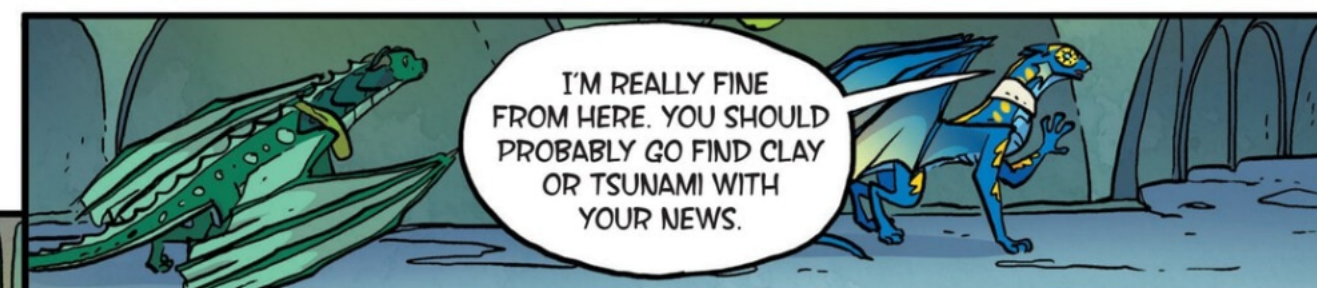
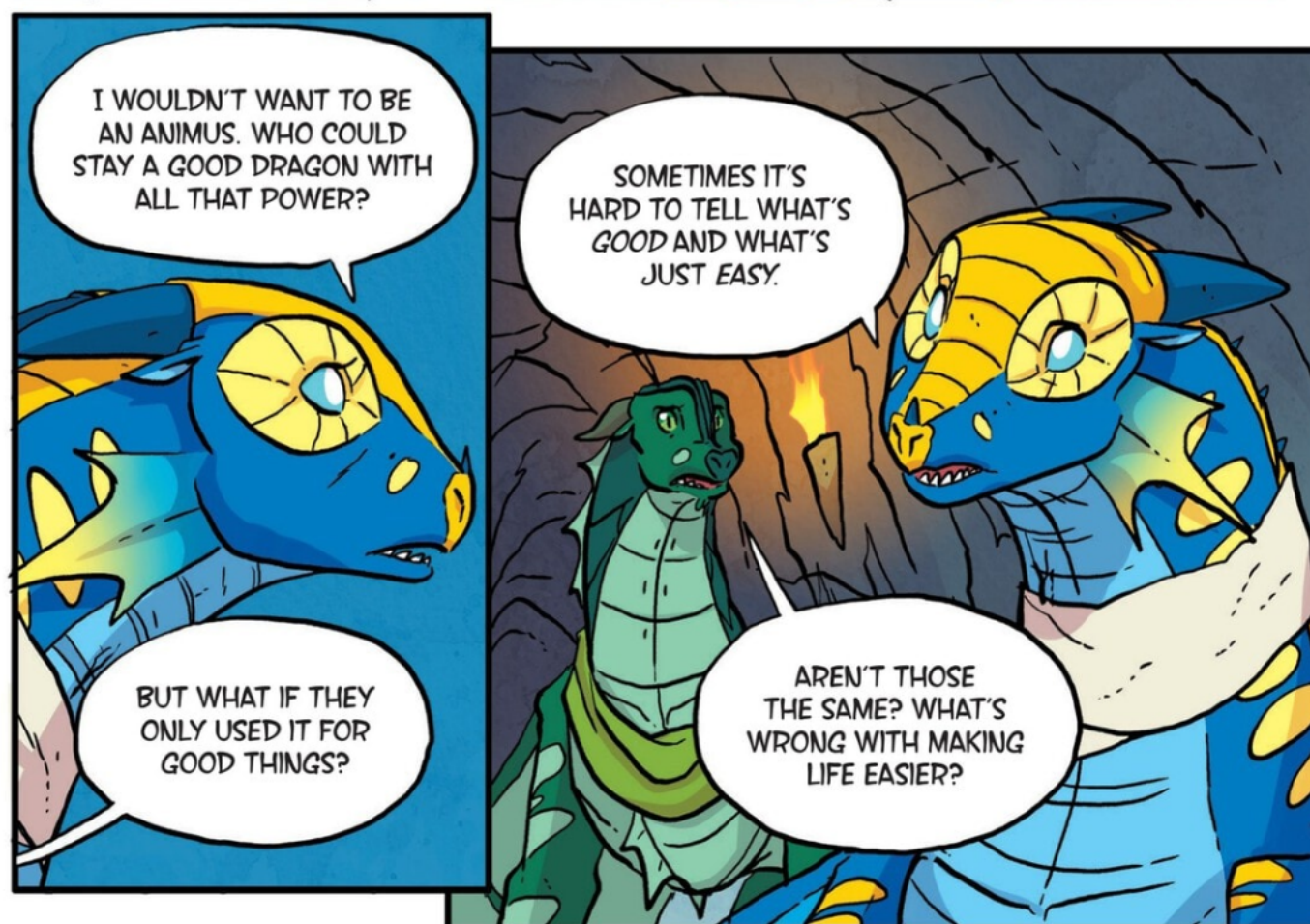
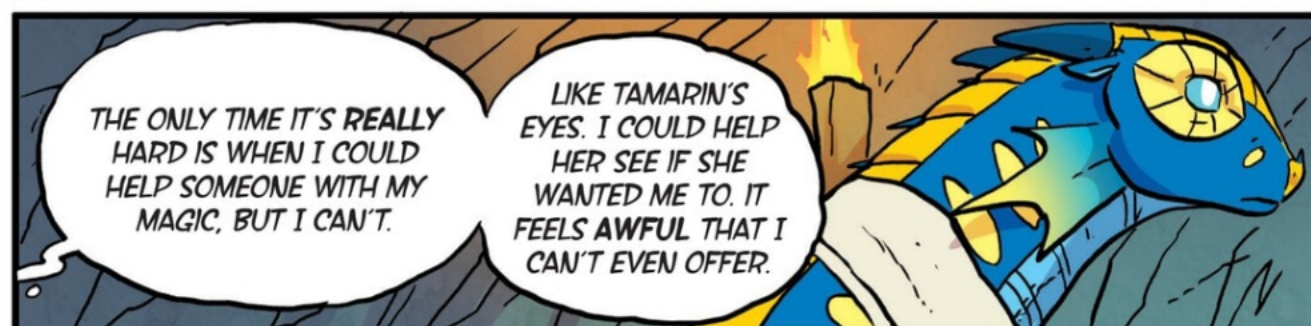
I DIDN'T KNOW ANEMONE WAS AN ANIMUS.



I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT HIDING MY OWN POWERS, I FORGOT ANEMONE'S ARE SECRET, TOO.

UH... THE OTHER TRIBES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW.

I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.





EAVESDROPPING
DEFINITELY
MAKES LIFE
EASIER...

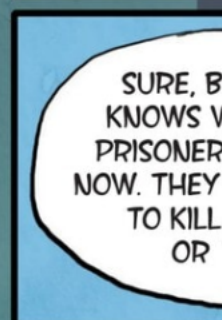
IS THIS WHAT
TAMARIN MEANT?
A WAY I MAKE LIFE
EASIER THAT'S NOT
"GOOD"?



SHE'S ALREADY GOT ENOUGH
PROBLEMS. TWO DRAGONS
DIED IN AN EXPLOSION AT
A WESTERN OASIS. IT WAS
A CACTUS BOMB—BUT
WHY WOULD SKYWINGS
BE ATTACKING SANDWINGS
NOW?



GLORY WON'T BE MAD
ABOUT THE PRISONERS,
RIGHT, TSUNAMI? SHE KNOWS
IT'S TOUGH BEING A NEW
QUEEN.



SURE, BUT WHO
KNOWS WHAT THE
PRISONERS WILL DO
NOW. THEY COULD TRY
TO KILL GLORY!
OR YOU!

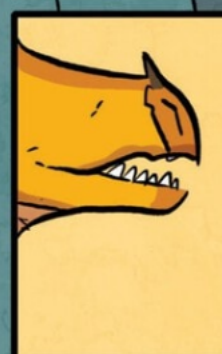


THANKS, TSUNAMI.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO
COMFORTING.



I CAN MAKE A STAB
AT COMFORTING!

UM... DEATHBRINGER WILL
STOP THEM! OR IF THEY KILL
HIM, GLORY WILL KILL THEM
WITH MAGICAL DEATH SPIT.

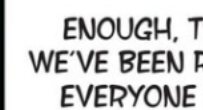


HMM. THAT WAS
VERY... STABBY
COMFORTING.

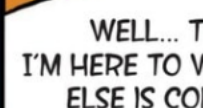
TURTLE!



SUNNY, LOOK! A STUDENT
FROM THE JADE WINGLET IS
ACTUALLY HERE! AT SCHOOL WHERE
THEY'RE SUPPOSE TO BE!



ENOUGH, TSUNAMI. TURTLE,
WE'VE BEEN REALLY WORRIED! IS
EVERYONE ELSE BACK, TOO?



WELL... THEY'RE COMING.
I'M HERE TO WARN YOU—SOMEONE
ELSE IS COMING WITH THEM.



HAVE EITHER OF
YOU HEARD OF
DARKSTALKER?



HE'S AN ANCIENT
NIGHTWING LEGEND,
RIGHT? THEY'RE REALLY
SCARED OF HIM, EVEN
THOUGH HE DIED
CENTURIES AGO.



UM. SO. HE DIDN'T...
EXACTLY DIE.

GASP!



DARKSTALKER'S
WOKEN UP. AND HE'S ON
HIS WAY HERE NOW.

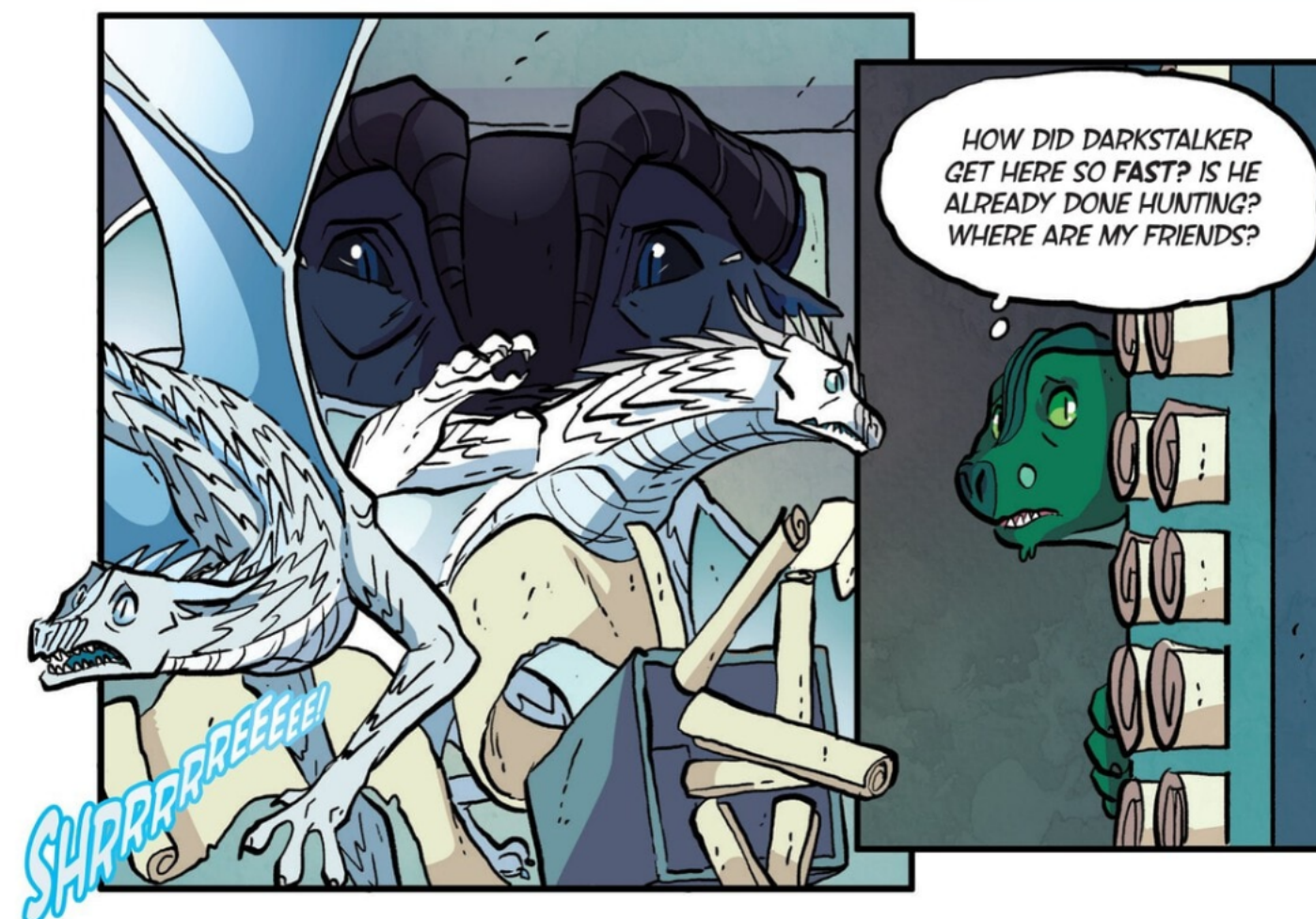
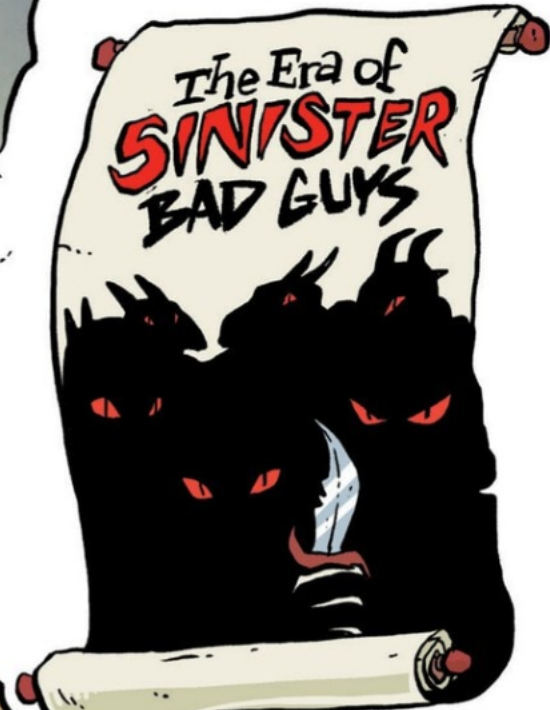


MIGHTYCLAWS—WAIT,
DON'T OVERREACT! WE
DON'T EVEN KNOW—



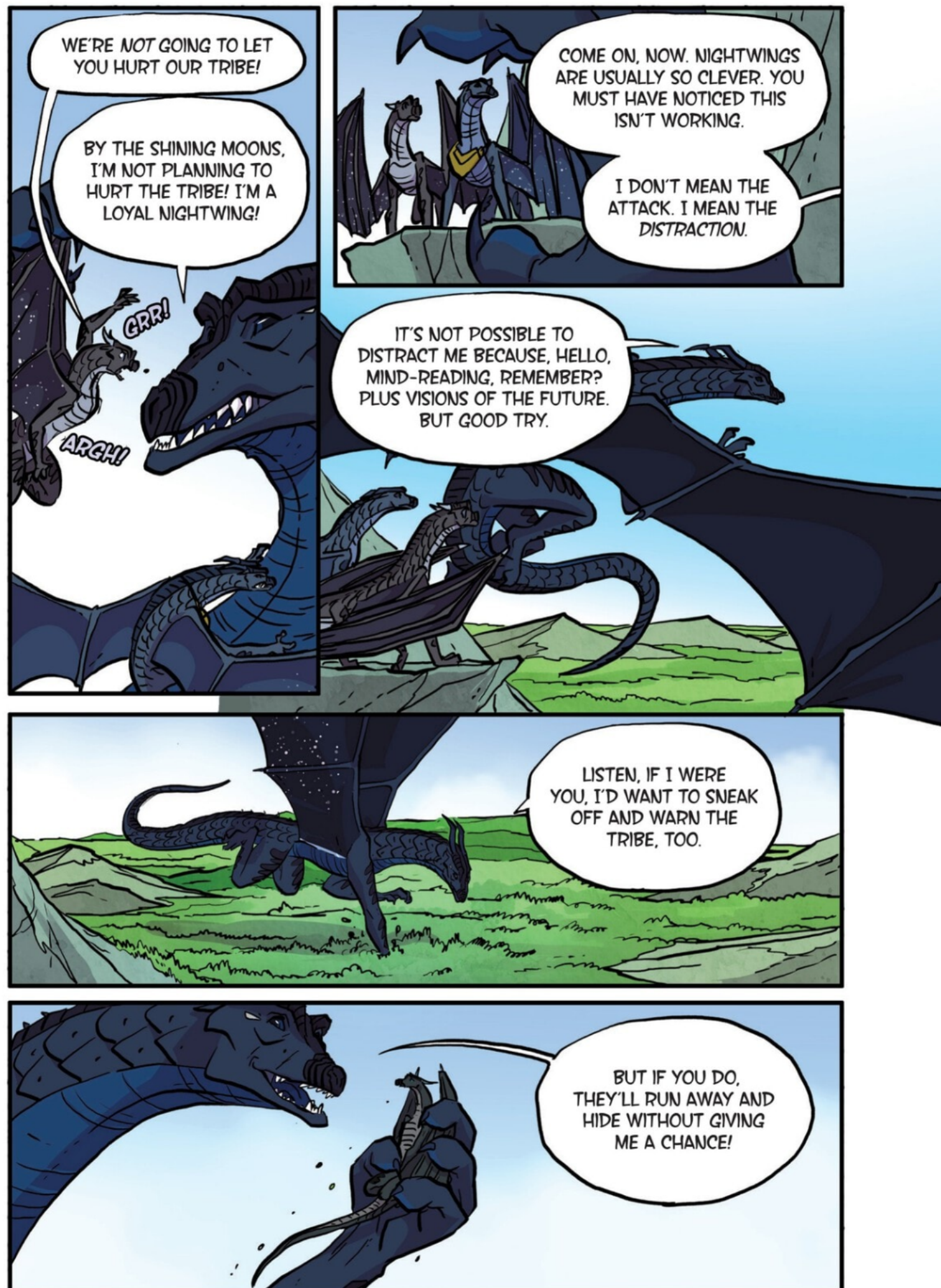
I HAVE TO WARN
THE OTHERS!

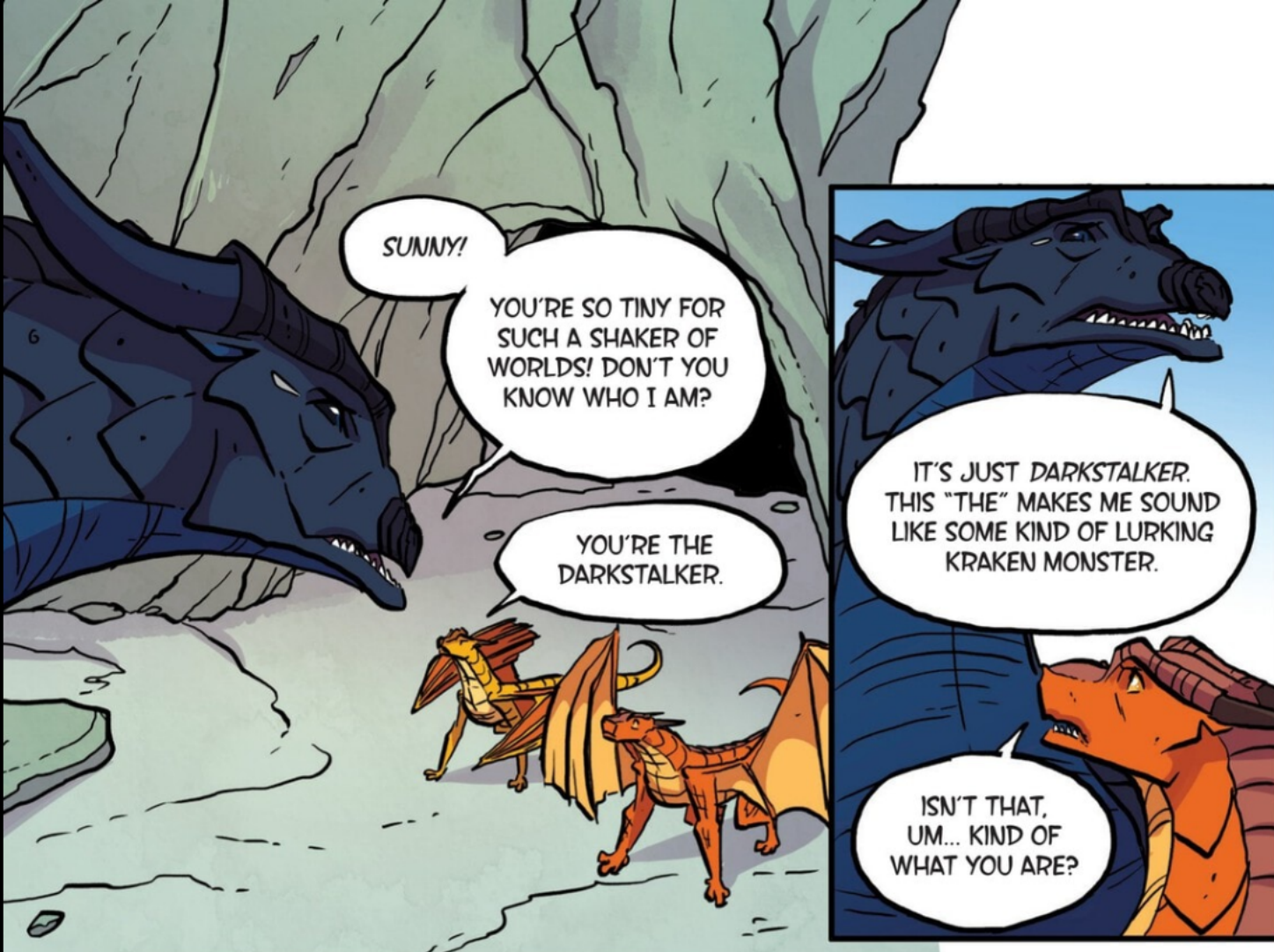












SUNNY!

YOU'RE SO TINY FOR SUCH A SHAKER OF WORLDS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

YOU'RE THE DARKSTALKER.

IT'S JUST DARKSTALKER. THIS "THE" MAKES ME SOUND LIKE SOME KIND OF LURKING KRAKEN MONSTER.

ISN'T THAT, UM... KIND OF WHAT YOU ARE?



NOT AT ALL.

SUNNY! GET THIS. I'M YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-OK-I'M-LOSING-COUNT-MANY-GREATS-GREAT-UNCLE!



SURPRISE! MORE FUNNY-LOOKING FAMILY FOR YOU!

WHAT? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'RE RELATED?



YOUR FATHER'S A NIGHTWING ANIMUS, SUNNY. HE MUST BE DESCENDED FROM ME OR MY SISTER, WHITEOUT-AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANY DRAGONETS.

ALTHOUGH I WAS SUPPOSED TO.



SUNNY, YOU HAVE MY SISTER'S EYES. HERS WERE BLUE INSTEAD OF GREEN, BUT THE SAME SHAPE. YOU'D HAVE LOVED HER.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

OF COURSE I DO. I CAN READ YOUR MINDS, REMEMBER?

I WOKE UP MONTHS AGO TO FIND MYSELF UNDER A MOUNTAIN AND TWENTY CENTURIES OLDER. I HAD NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT READ ALL YOUR MINDS.

THAT'S KIND OF... NOSY, ISN'T IT?

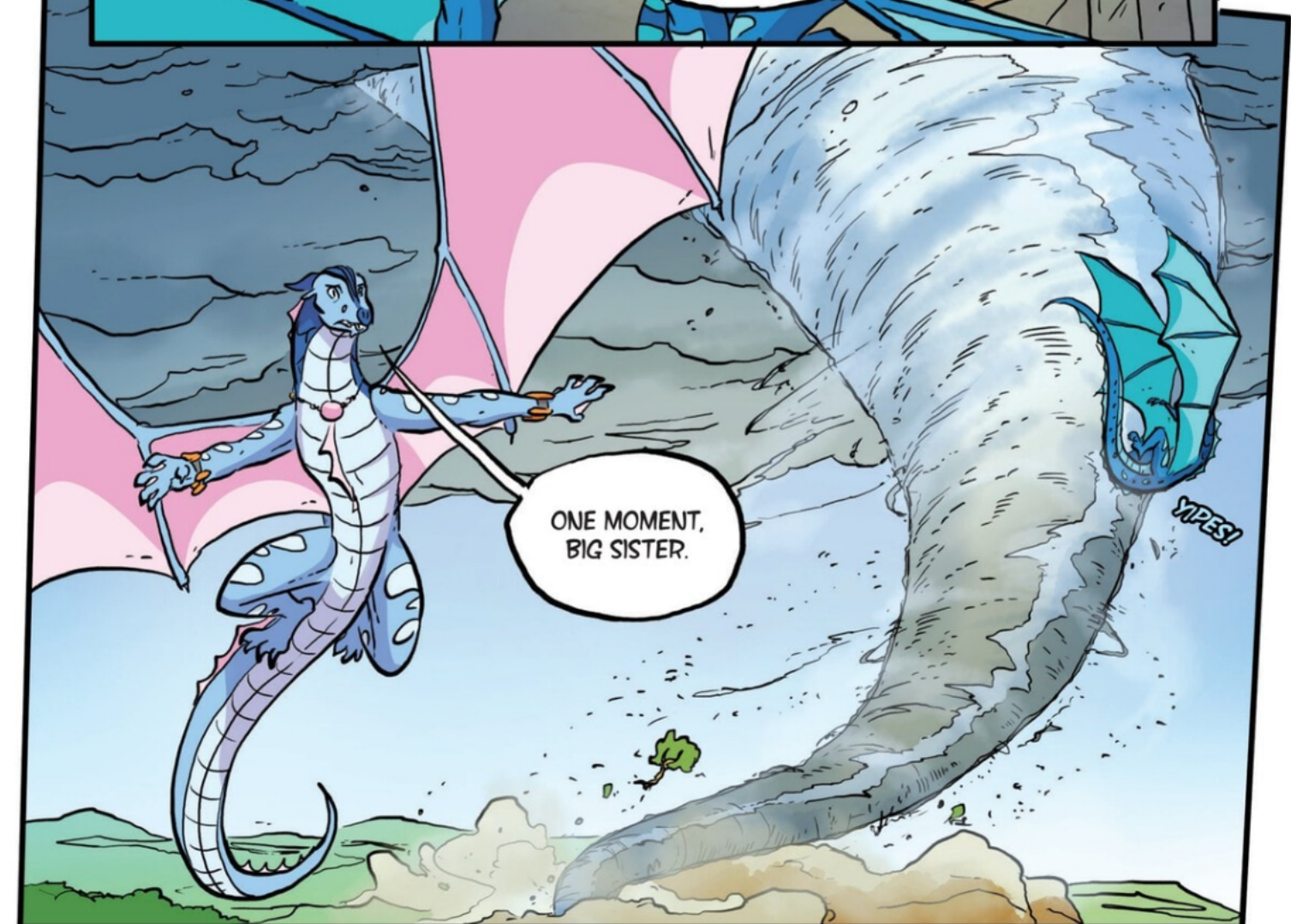
DON'T WORRY, CLAY, YOUR THOUGHTS ARE VERY SWEET. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO CERTAIN DRAGONS.

WINK

ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE GONE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

I ASKED STARFLIGHT TO FIND ME SOME SCROLLS, TO FILL IN THE GAPS. I HOPE THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

KRA-KA-THOOOM!!





WHY WERE YOU
LOOKING FOR ME?

SINCE I FIRST READ YOUR
THOUGHTS, I'VE KNOWN
YOU'RE A KINDRED SPIRIT—
AS SMART AND PRACTICAL
AS I AM. AND, OF COURSE,
A FELLOW ANIMUS.



FINALLY,
SOMEONE WHO
UNDERSTANDS ME.

ANEMONE.

OH, I KNOW YOU
LOVE ME, TSUNAMI. BUT
UNDERSTANDING ME... THAT
TAKES ANOTHER ANIMUS.



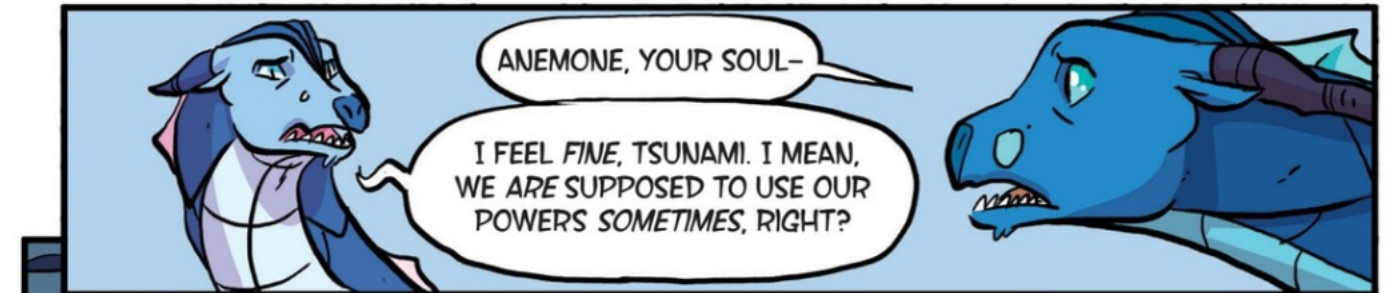
DOES IT? I'VE NEVER
FELT FURTHER FROM
UNDERSTANDING
ANEMONE THAN I DO
RIGHT NOW.



WHAT A CLEVER IDEA, ANEMONE.
I'VE NEVER TRIED CONTROLLING THE
WEATHER. WHAT DID YOU ENCHANT?

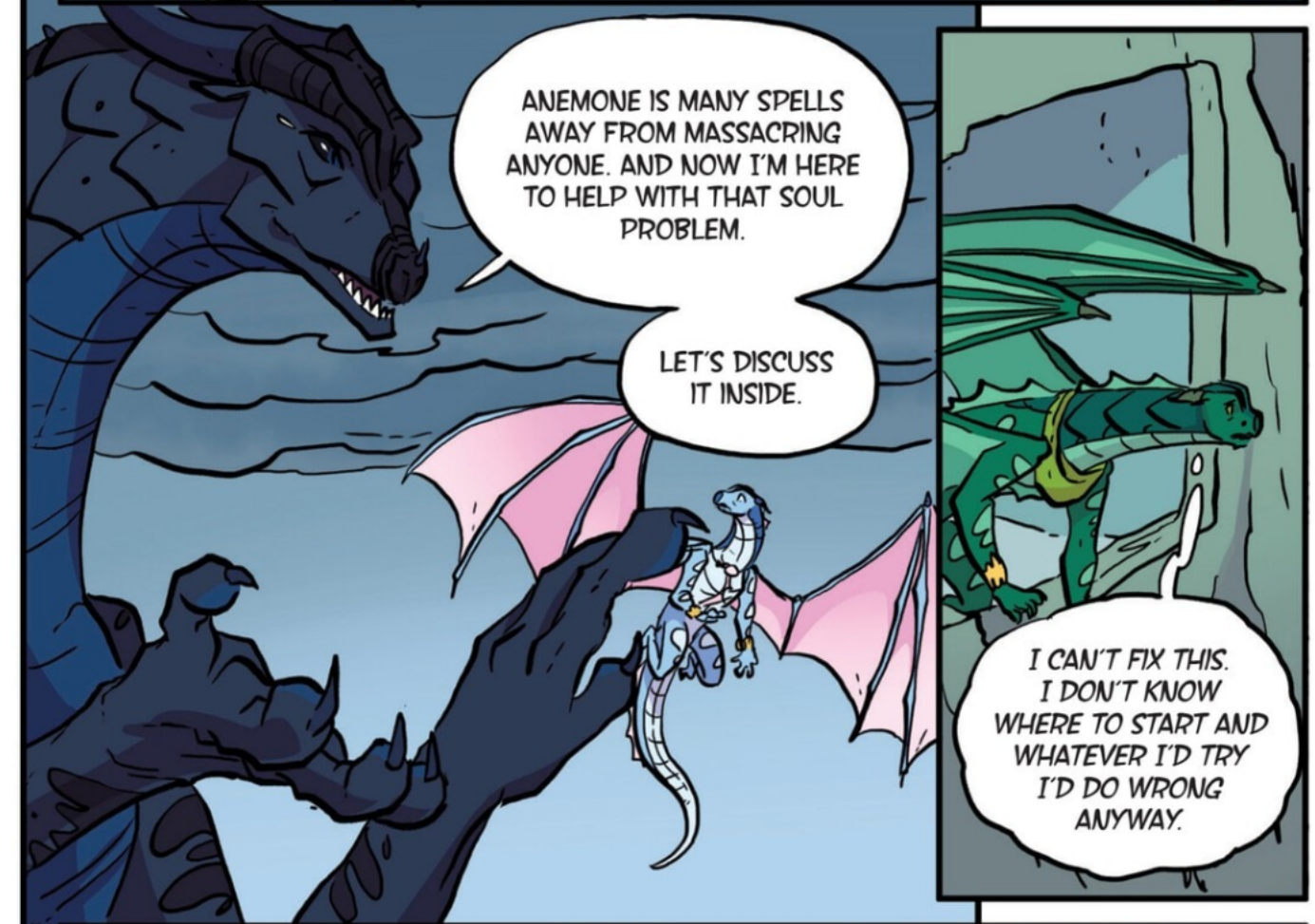


MY ARMBANDS.
I WANTED YOU TO SEE
WHAT I COULD DO.



ANEMONE, YOUR SOUL—

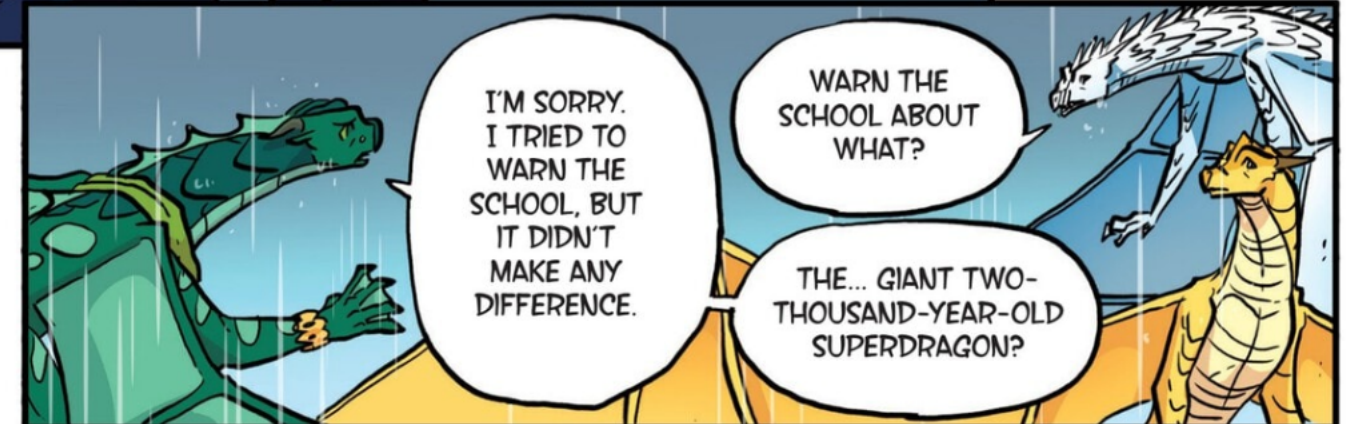
I FEEL FINE, TSUNAMI. I MEAN,
WE ARE SUPPOSED TO USE OUR
POWERS SOMETIMES, RIGHT?



ANEMONE IS MANY SPELLS
AWAY FROM MASSACRING
ANYONE. AND NOW I'M HERE
TO HELP WITH THAT SOUL
PROBLEM.

LET'S DISCUSS
IT INSIDE.

I CAN'T FIX THIS.
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO START AND
WHATEVER I'D TRY
I'D DO WRONG
ANYWAY.



I'M SORRY.
I TRIED TO
WARN THE
SCHOOL, BUT
IT DIDN'T
MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE.

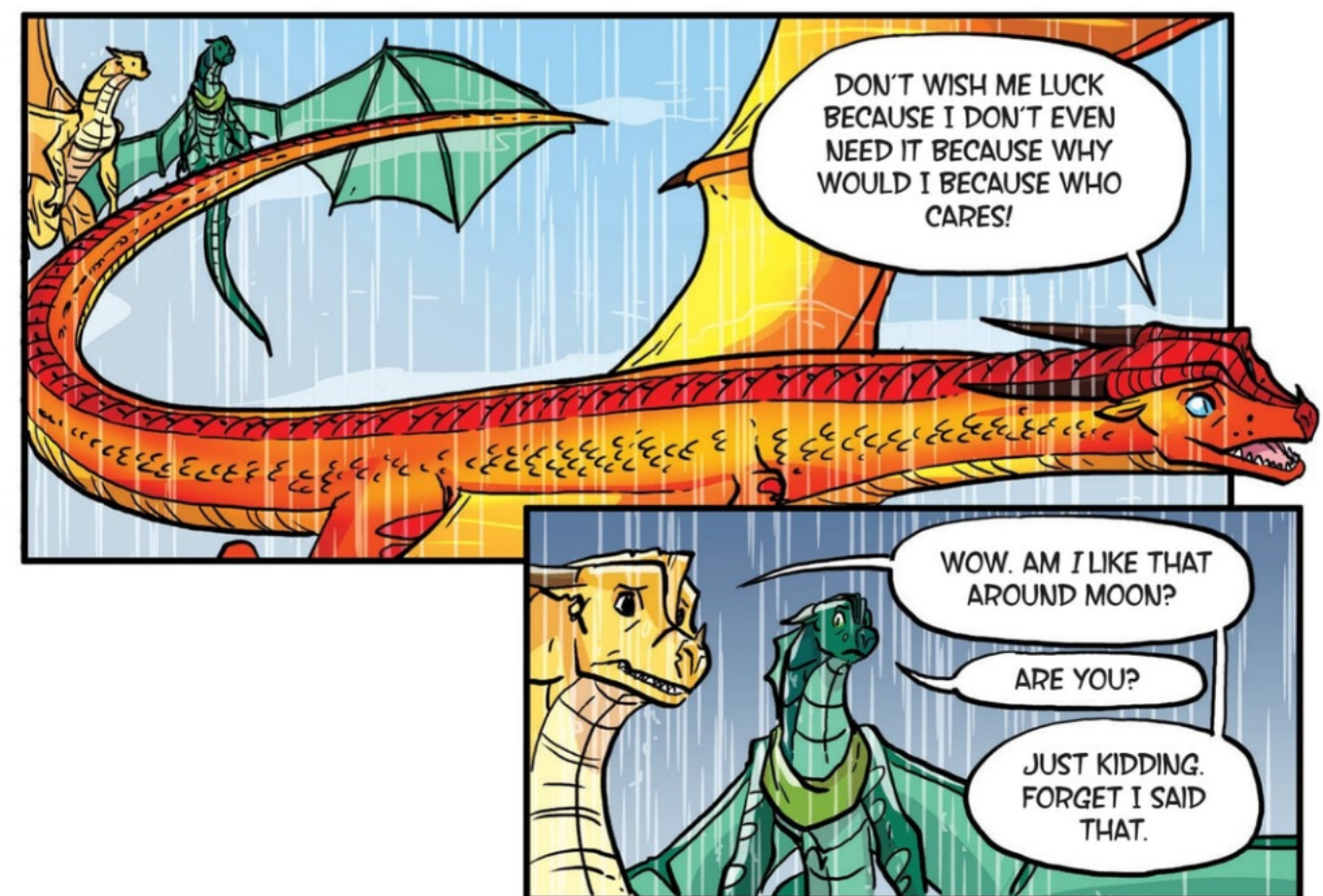
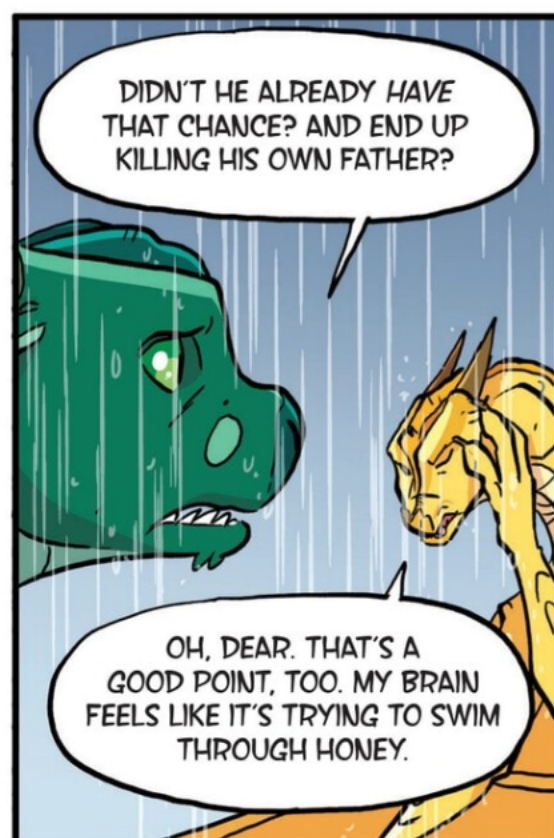
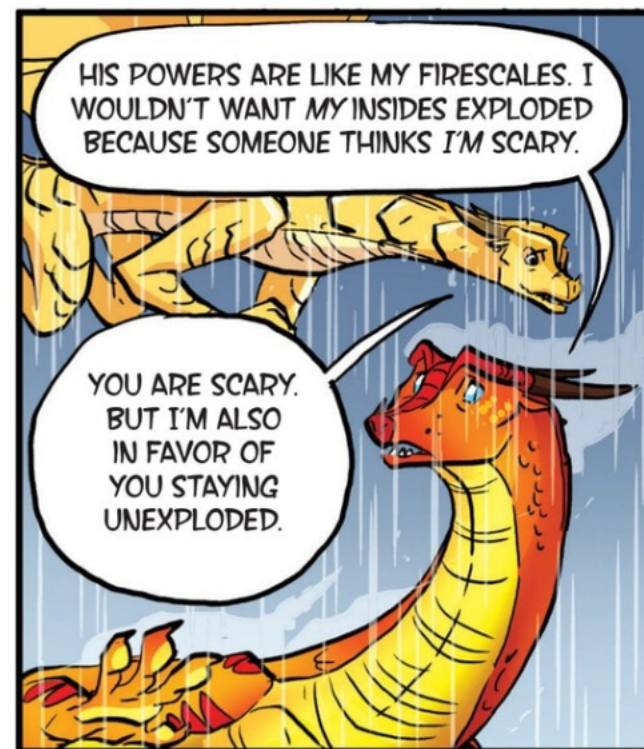
WARN THE
SCHOOL ABOUT
WHAT?

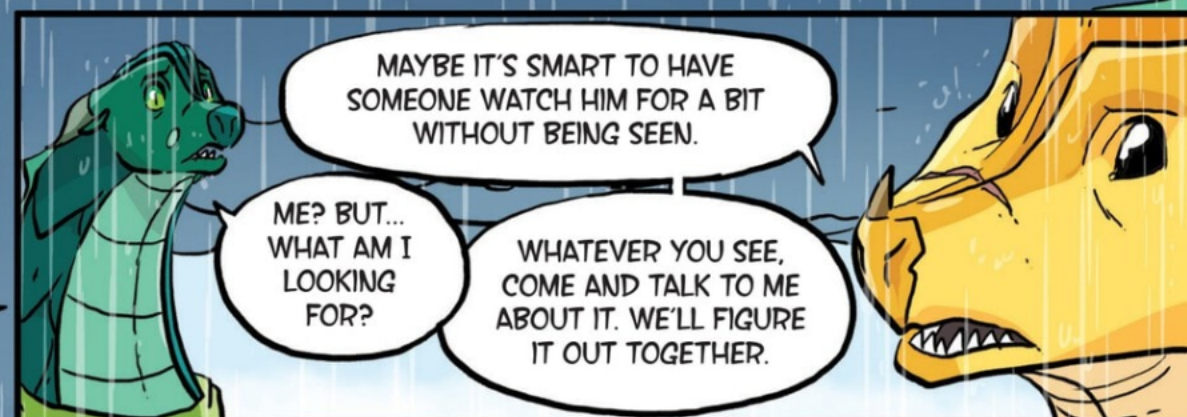
THE... GIANT TWO-
THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD
SUPERDRAGON?

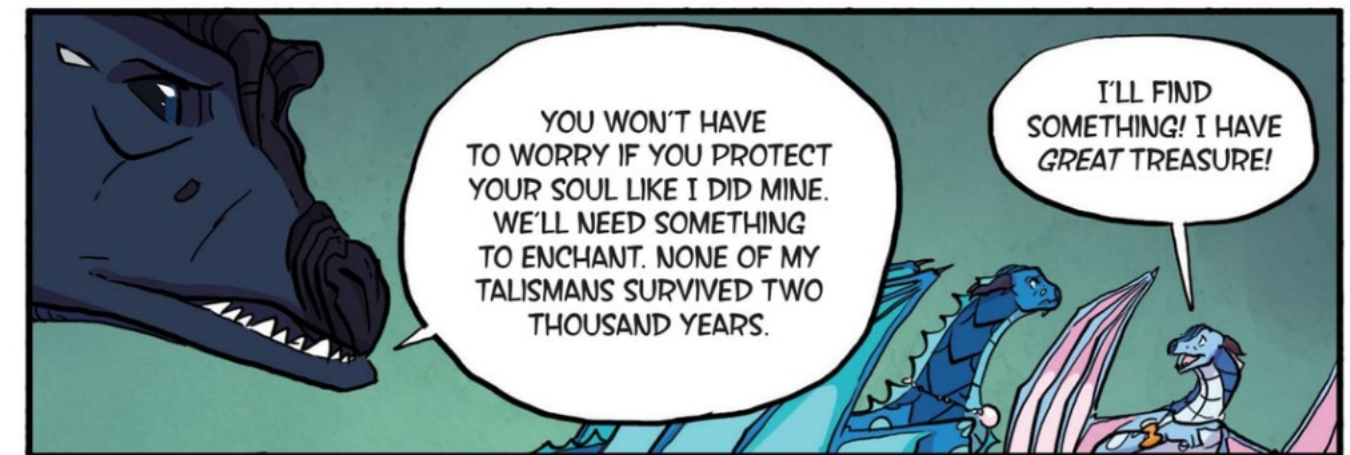


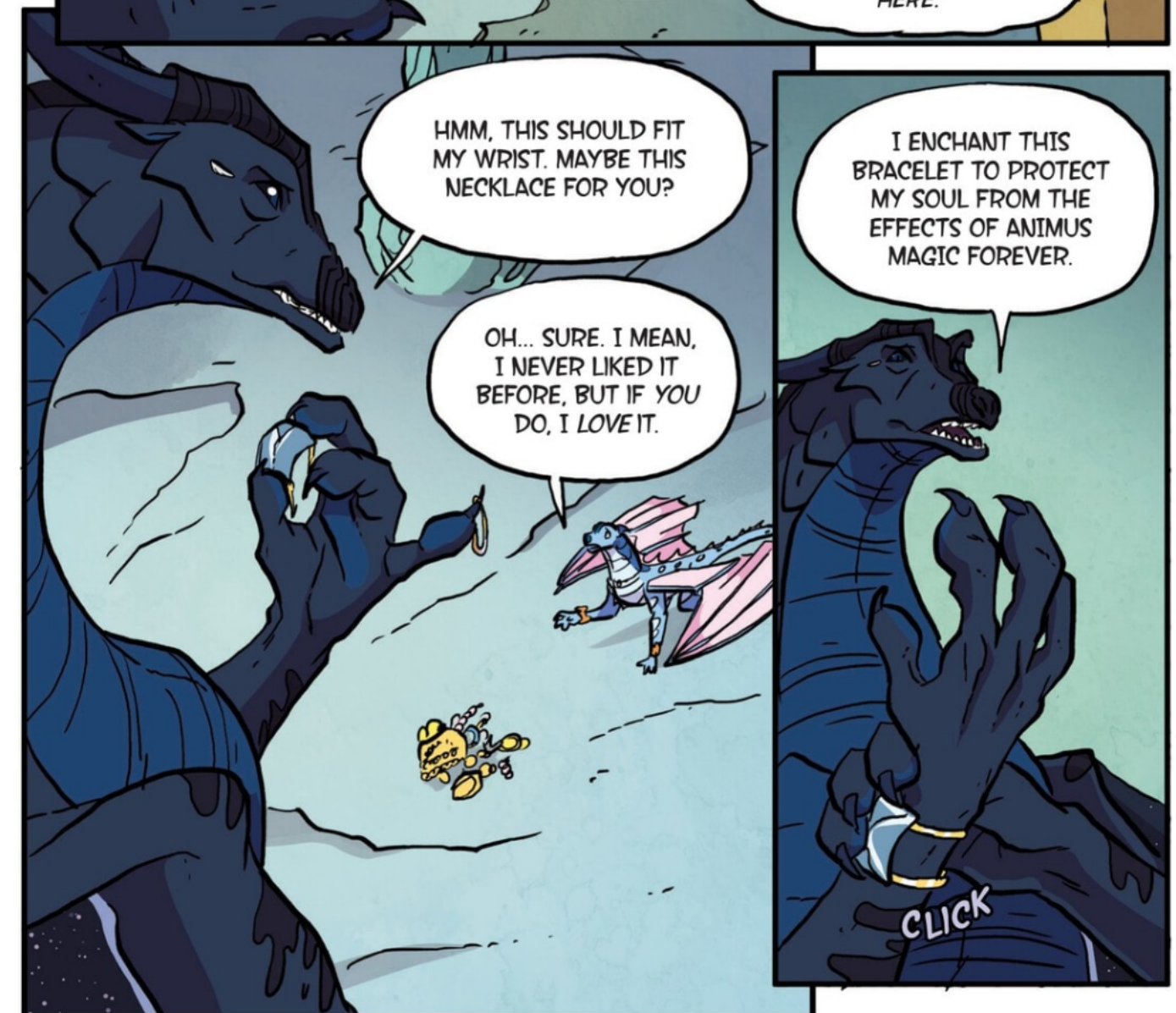
OH, DARKSTALKER'S
NOT HERE TO HURT
ANYONE. HE JUST
WANTS TO MAKE
FRIENDS AND START
OVER.

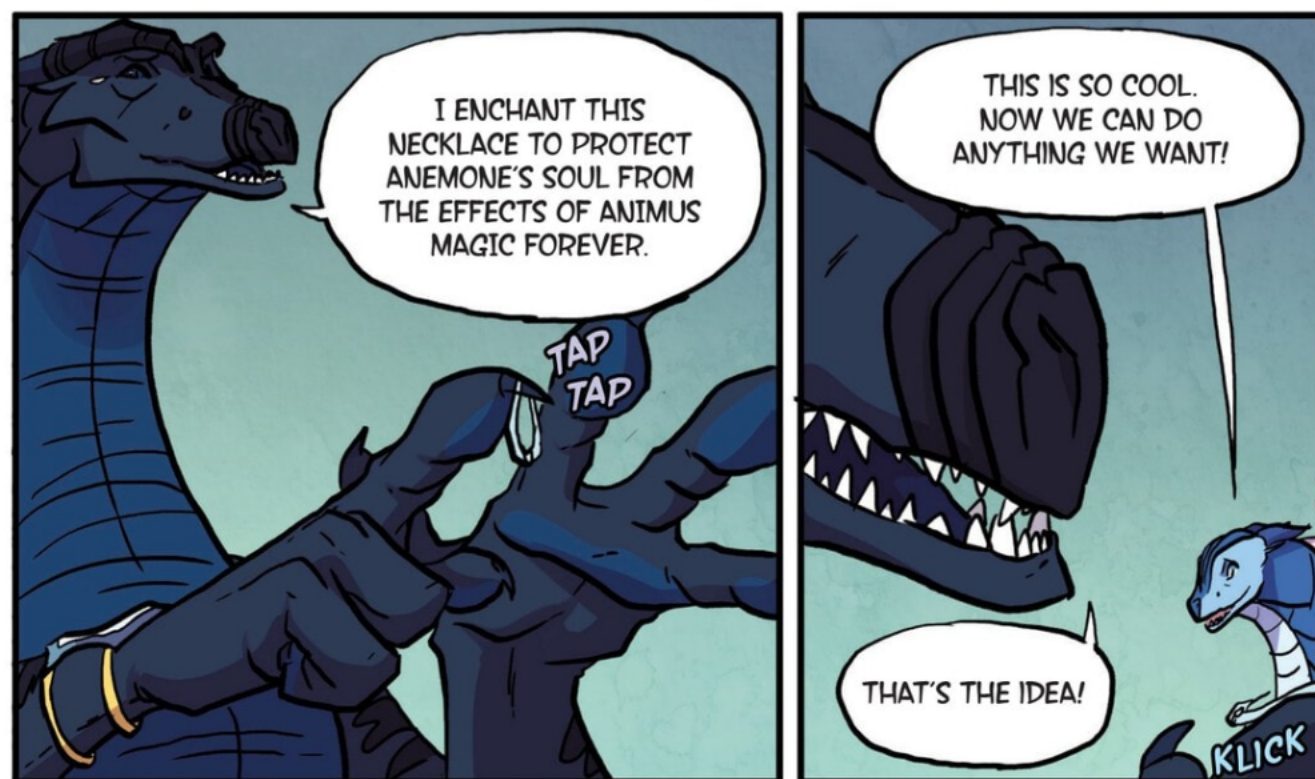
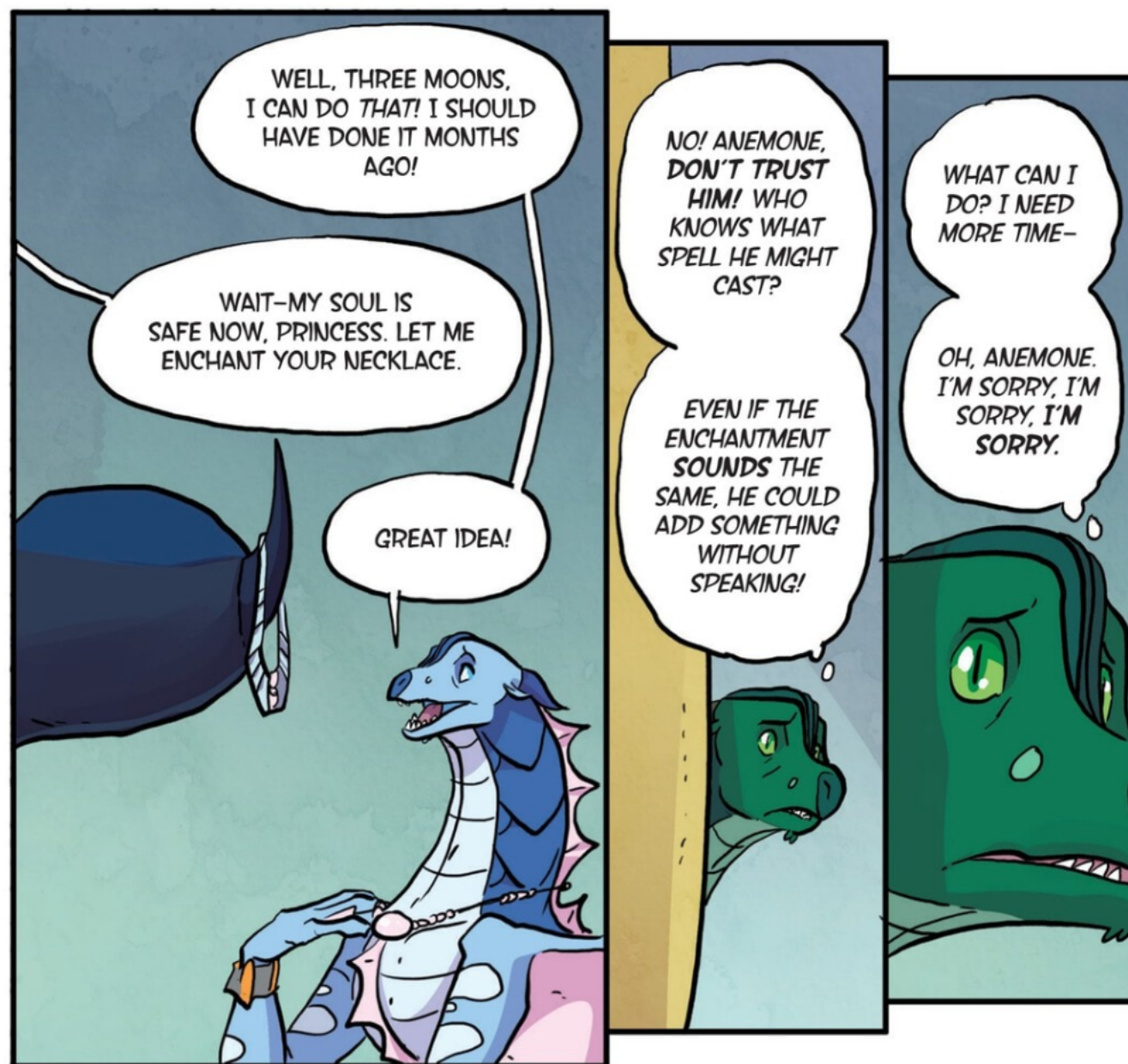
SEE, I FEEL LIKE
THAT'S TRUE, BUT
THEN WINTER OF ALL
DRAGONS SAYS IT AND
I GET NERVOUS.













STAY OUT
OF MY HEAD.

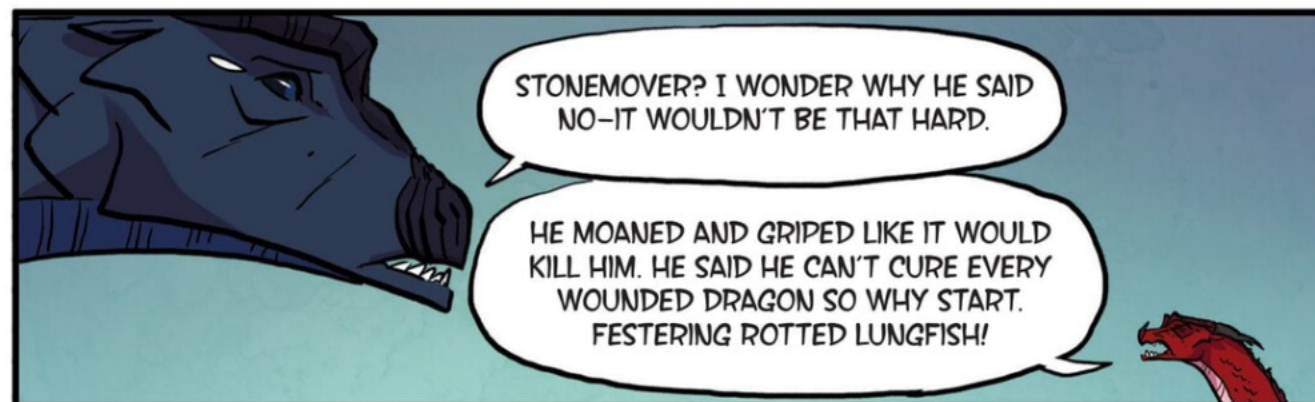
WITH PLEASURE.

YOU KNOW,
FLAME, I COULD FIX
YOUR FACE.



DON'T LIE TO ME.
I ALREADY ASKED AN ANIMUS
AND HE SAID HE COULDN'T.

SLITHERING
TOADSTOOL WORM.



STONEMOVER? I WONDER WHY HE SAID
NO-IT WOULDN'T BE THAT HARD.

HE MOANED AND GRIPED LIKE IT WOULD
KILL HIM. HE SAID HE CAN'T CURE EVERY
WOUNDED DRAGON SO WHY START.
FESTERING ROTTED LUNGFISH!



OH DEAR. WELL, I'M
SURE HE HAS HIS REASONS.
BUT I CERTAINLY COULD DO
IT... IF YOU WANT.

NO STRINGS
ATTACHED? HA!
I DON'T BUY IT.



I HAVE A LOT TO
MAKE UP FOR. WHAT'S
THE WORD... OH, I'M
ATONING. I NEED M-

I NEED *EVERYONE*
TO SEE I'M HERE
TO HELP. WHY
SHOULDN'T I HELP
YOU, FLAME?



I DON'T NEED
YOUR PITY!



I'VE SEEN IN YOUR
MIND HOW BADLY YOU
WANT THIS.

I ENCHANT THIS FLOWER
TO HEAL FLAME THE SKYWING,
RETURNING HIS FACE TO THE WAY
IT WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

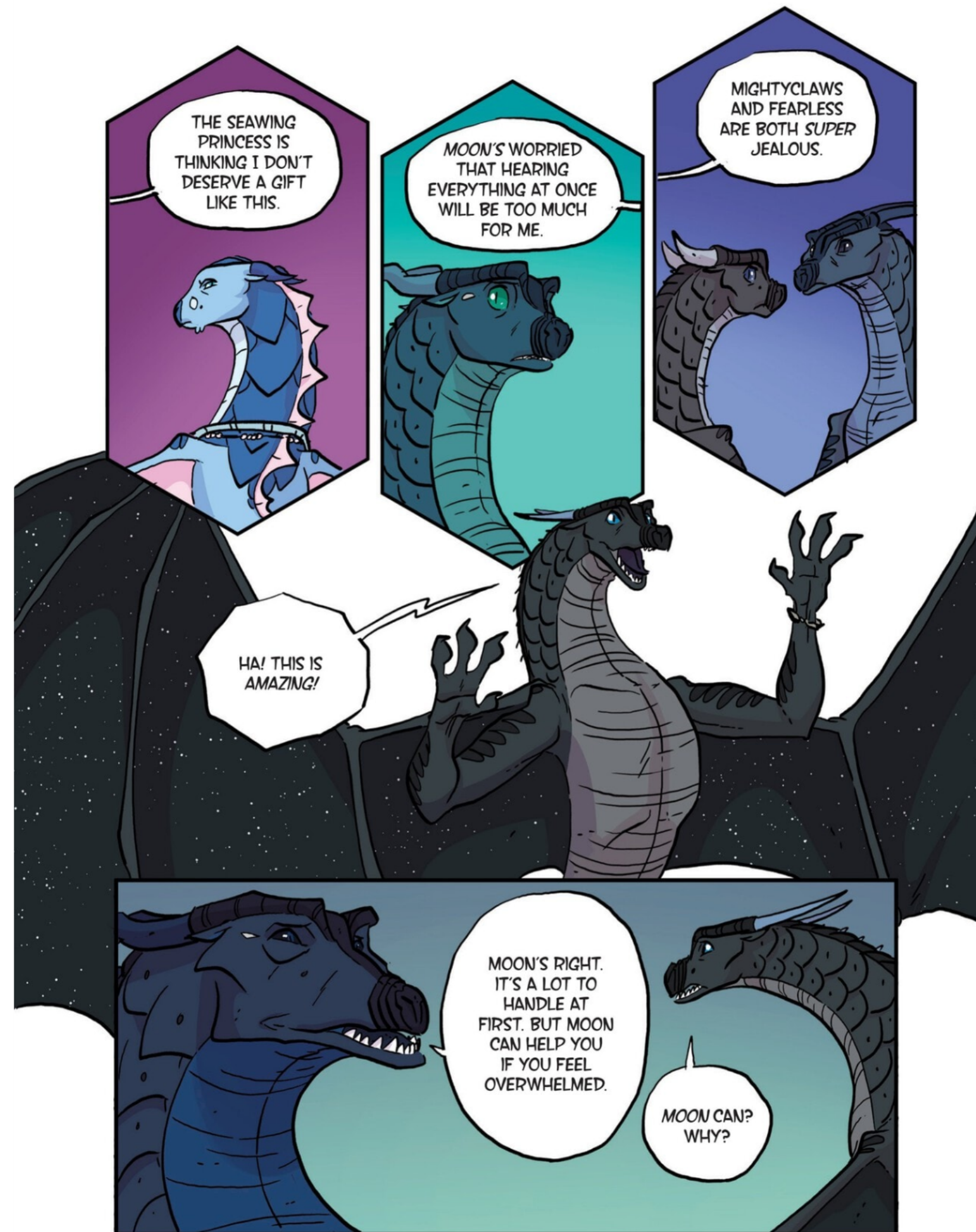


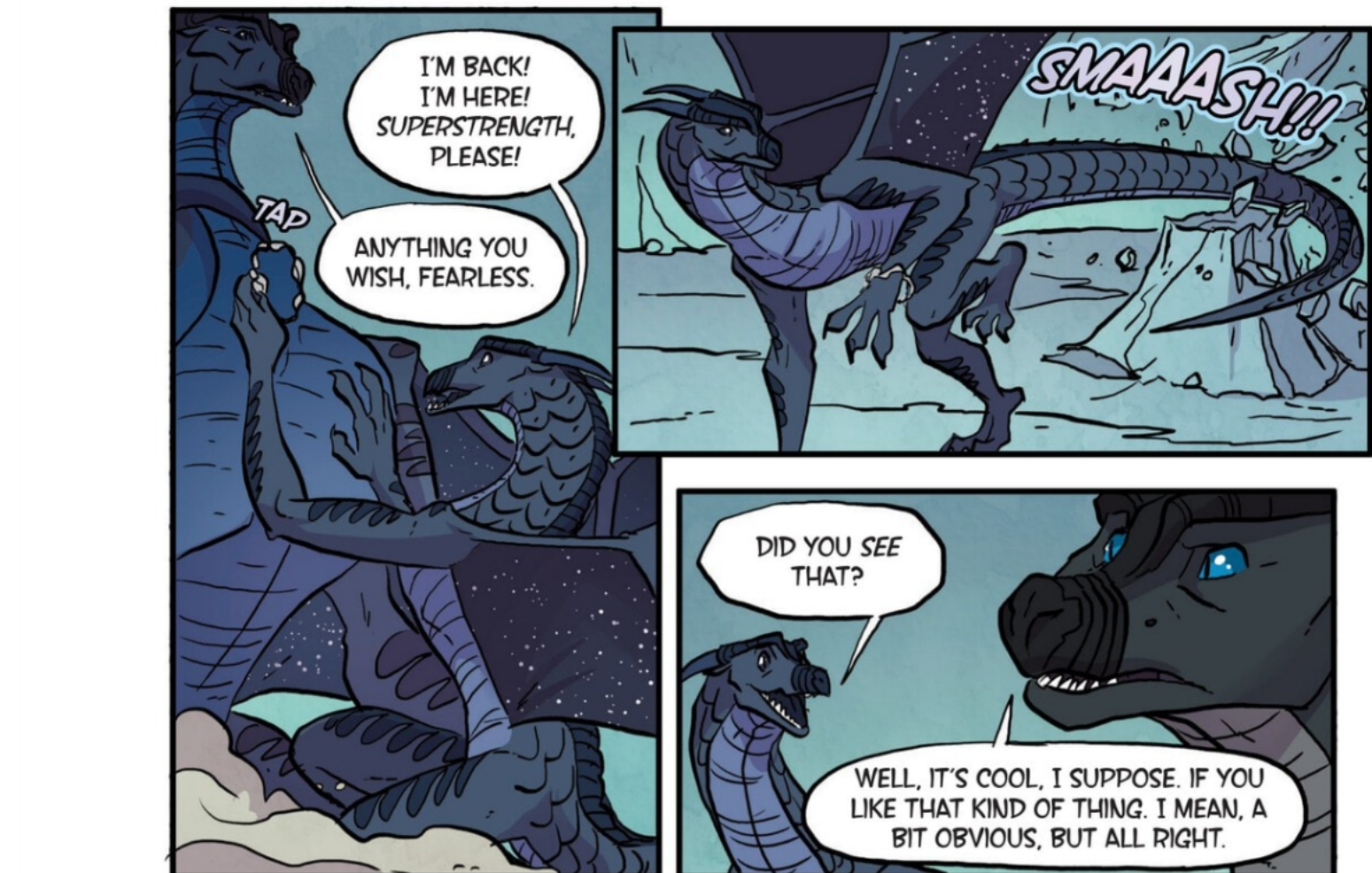
AHHH!



WOW! YOU
LOOK TOTALLY
DIFFERENT!











DARKSTALKER'S SO BIG, I CAN BARELY FIT PAST HIM. WHAT IF I TOUCH HIM! WILL HE NOTICE ME THEN?

FATHER!



FATHER!



WHO DID THIS? YOU MUST KNOW.

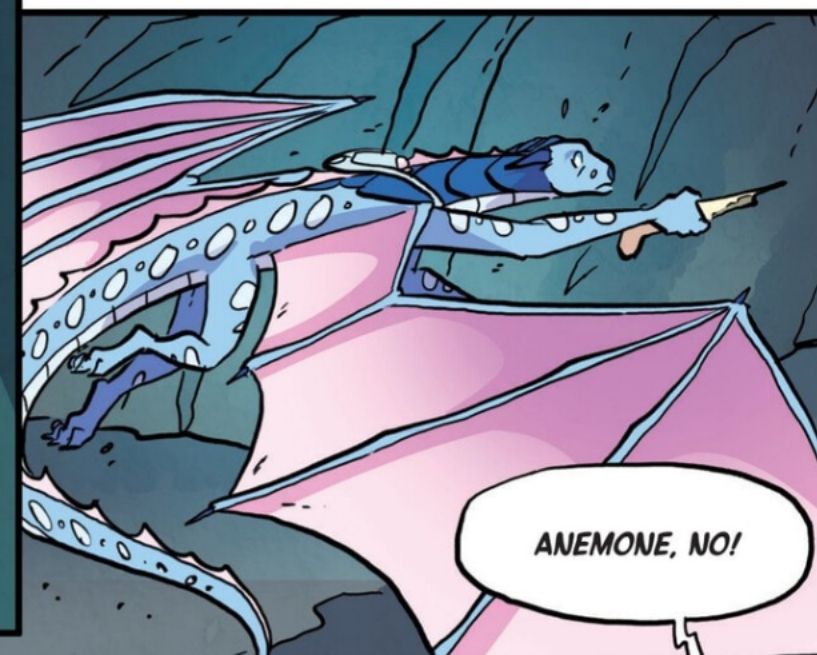
HE WENT INTO THE TUNNELS. OTHERWISE, I'D CHASE HIM DOWN MYSELF.



I'LL DO IT!



LEAD ME TO STONEMOVER'S KILLER.



ANEMONE, NO!



WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE THIS COMING?

THERE ARE *BILLIONS* OF FUTURES, MOON. EVEN I CAN'T STUDY THEM ALL, ESPECIALLY WHEN SOMETHING SMALL CAN SET OFF A SHARP TURN.



SUNNY, I HEAR A GLIMMER OF LIFE IN HIS MIND. I CAN SAVE HIM.

BUT— YOU SHOULDN'T— SHOULD YOU?

HE'S MY FAMILY, TOO.



IF HE'S ALIVE, I COULD
SAVE STONEMOVER WITH MY
HEALING ROCK. BUT THEN
EVERYONE WOULD KNOW
ABOUT ME.

I HAVE TO STAY
USELESS TO STAY
SAFE.



ENCHANT THIS
STALACTITE TO HEAL
THE WOUNDS OF
ANY DRAGON IT
TOUCHES.

TAP



HELLO, STONEMOVER.
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW.

GRRROOOOAAAN



WHO ARE
YOU?

AN ANCESTOR OF
YOURS. RETURNED
FROM THE DEAD. SO
WE HAVE THAT IN
COMMON!

MY NAME IS
DARKSTALKER.



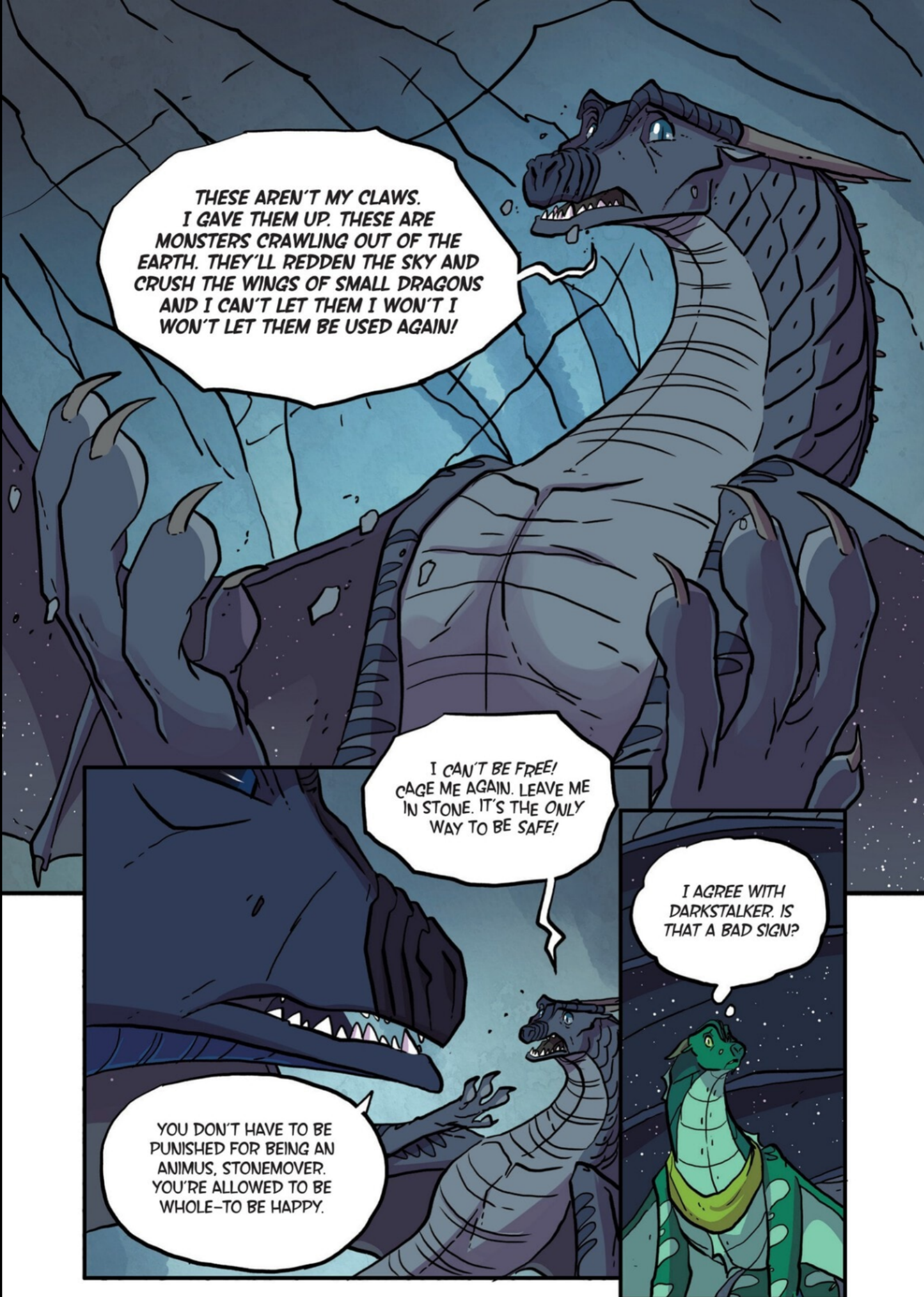
NO!



MY CLAWS!
THEY'RE NOT MINE!
WHAT ARE THEY
DOING? SOMEBODY
STOP THEM!



DON'T PANIC, STONEMOVER.
YOUR PETRIFIED SCALES ARE HEALING.
YOU'RE NOT USED TO BEING ABLE TO
FEEL YOUR LIMBS, THAT'S ALL. IN A
MOMENT, THE ROCK WILL BE GONE.



THESE AREN'T MY CLAWS.
I GAVE THEM UP. THESE ARE
MONSTERS CRAWLING OUT OF THE
EARTH. THEY'LL REDDEN THE SKY AND
CRUSH THE WINGS OF SMALL DRAGONS
AND I CAN'T LET THEM I WON'T I
WON'T LET THEM BE USED AGAIN!

I CAN'T BE FREE!
CAGE ME AGAIN. LEAVE ME
IN STONE. IT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO BE SAFE!

I AGREE WITH
DARKSTALKER. IS
THAT A BAD SIGN?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE
PUNISHED FOR BEING AN
ANIMUS, STONEMOVER.
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO BE
WHOLE-TO BE HAPPY.



HE MEANS IT, DARKSTALKER. HE'S
TERRIFIED OF HIS POWER. HIS MIND
IS SHREDDING ITSELF TO PIECES.

YEAH, AND IT'S GIVING ME
THE WORST HEADACHE.

ALL THIS FEAR. I'VE
SEEN IT BEFORE.
I CAN FIX IT. THE
RIGHT SPELL COULD
TAKE AWAY ALL HIS
WORRIES-

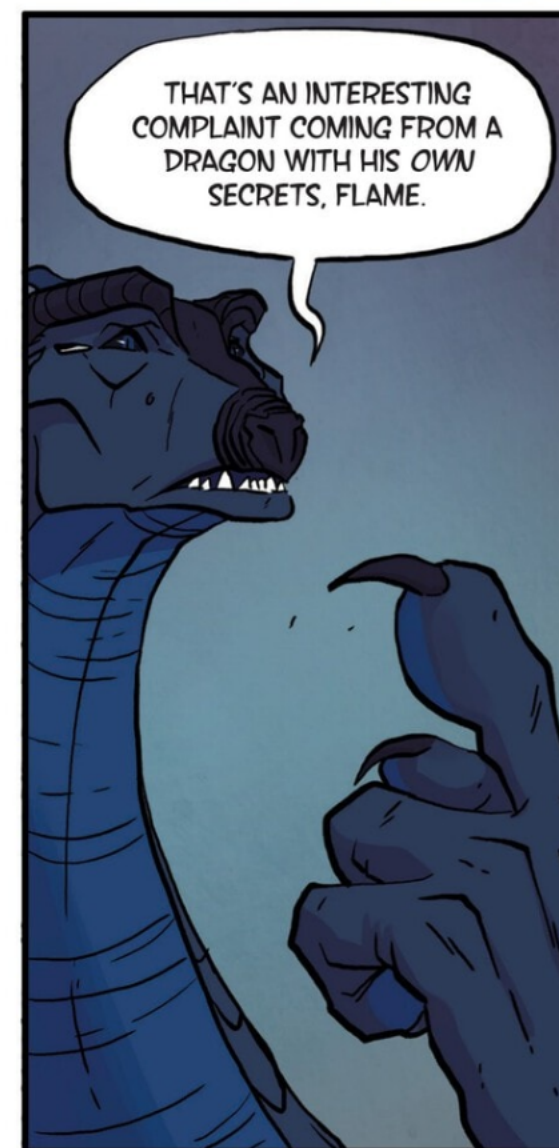
NO!

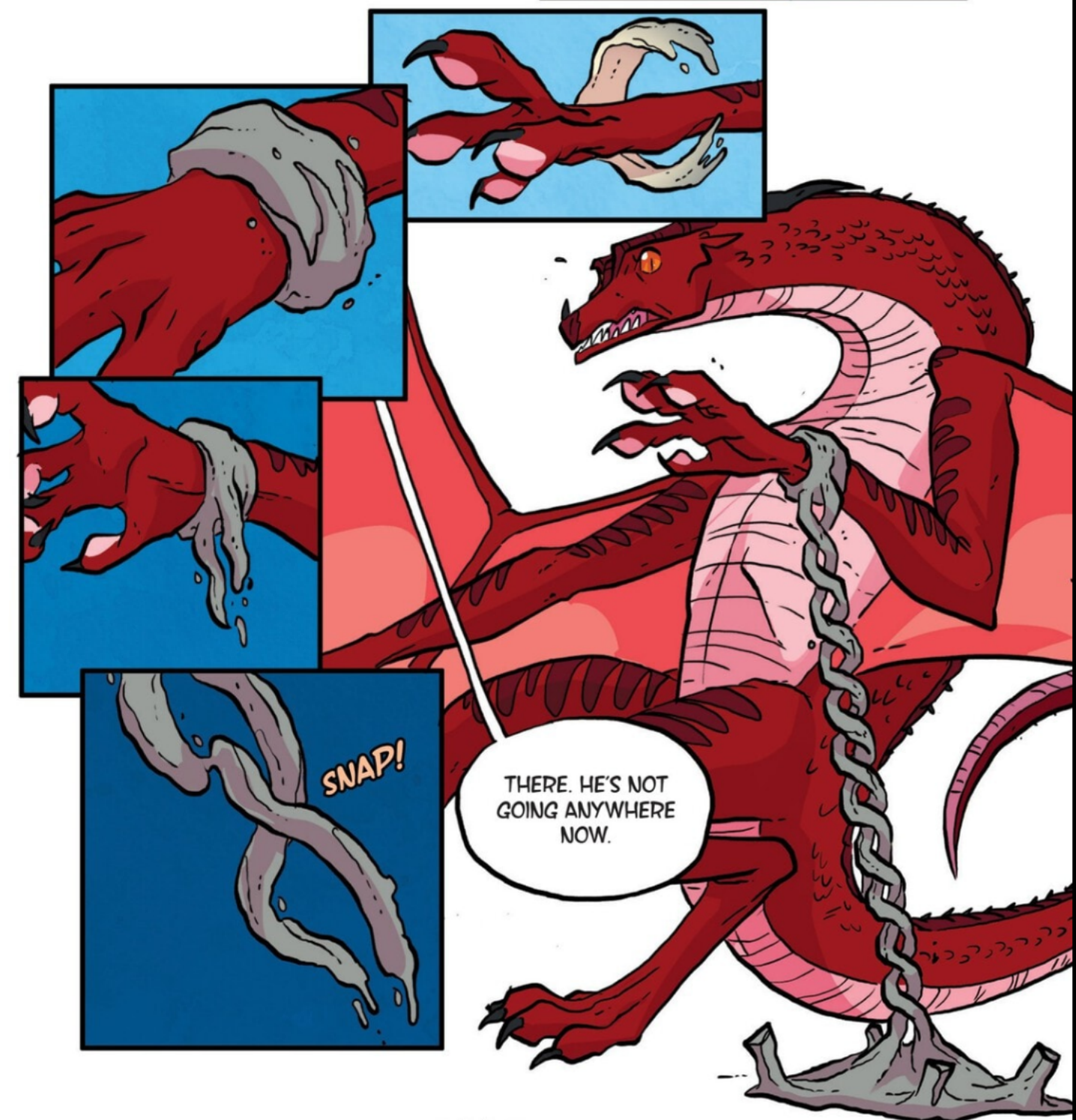
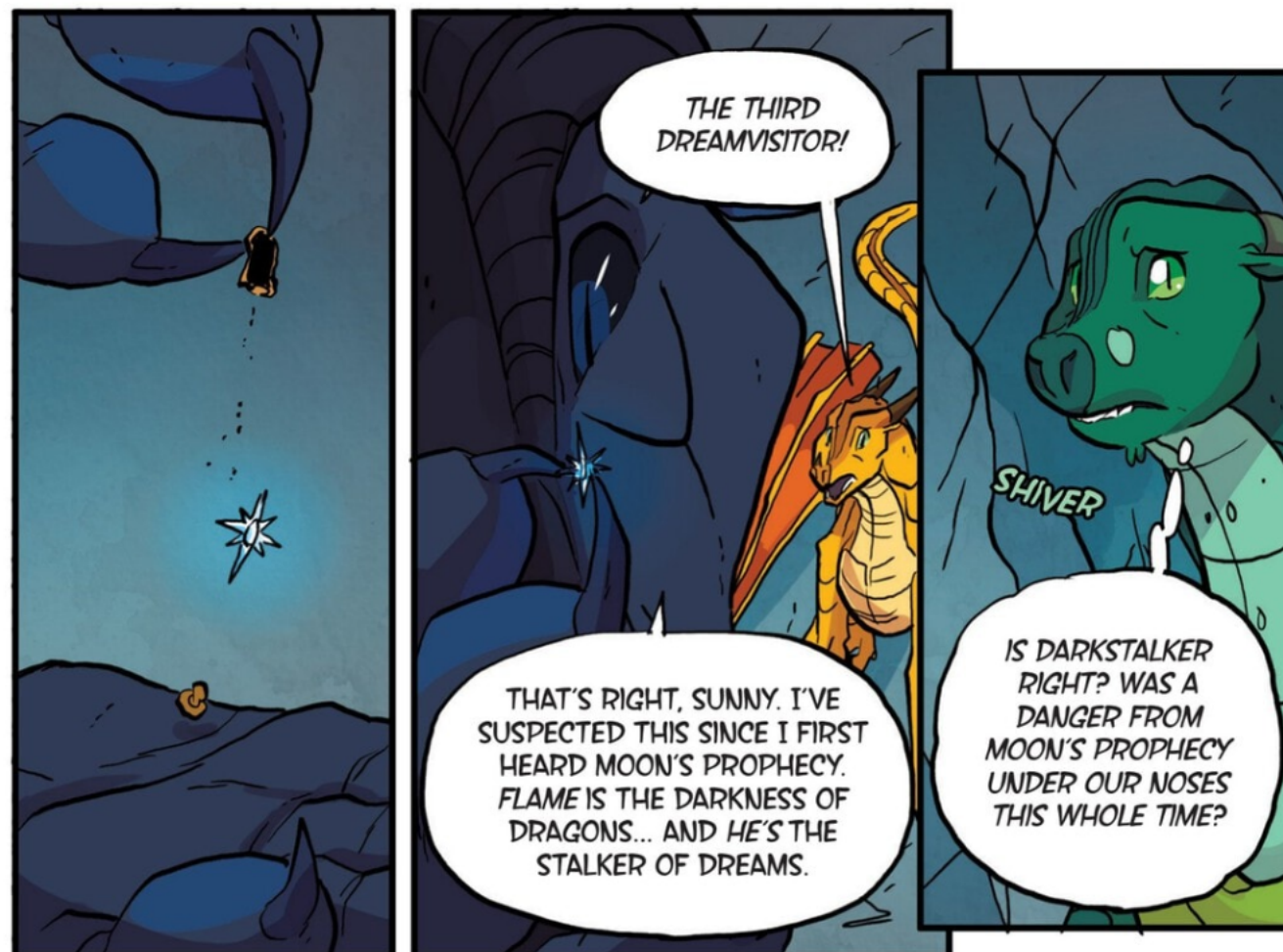
MOON, ISN'T IT ALL
RIGHT TO MAKE
DRAGONS HAPPIER
IF YOU CAN?

NOT IF THEY DON'T
WANT YOU TO.

BUT THEY
SHOULD
WANT ME TO.
IT MAKES NO
SENSE!

FINE. I'LL PUT HIM
BACK THE WAY HE
WAS AND LEAVE
HIM TO WALLOW
IN HIS MISERY.
SO POINTLESS.





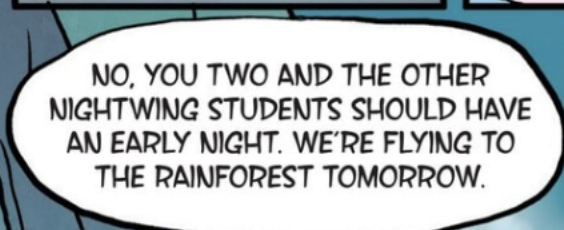


I THINK WE'RE ALL
DONE HERE. LET'S GO.

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME
PLEASE DON'T



THAT WAS AWESOME!
LET'S SOLVE MORE MYSTERIES!
CATCH MORE BAD GUYS!



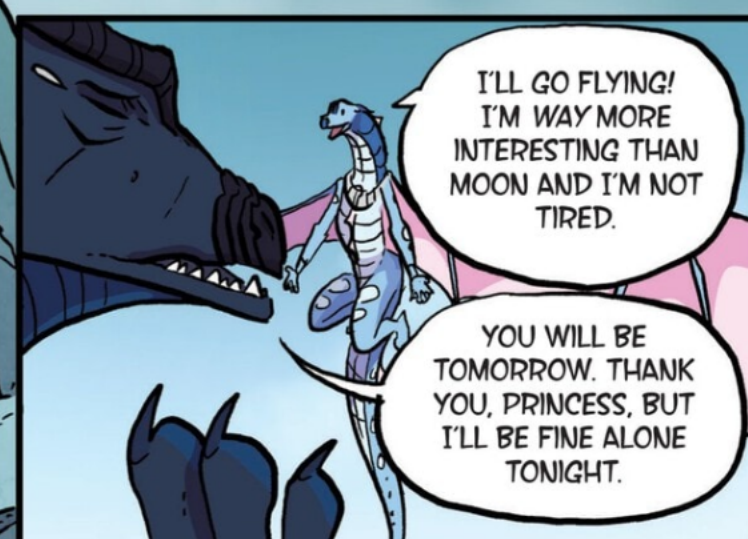
NO, YOU TWO AND THE OTHER
NIGHTWING STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE
AN EARLY NIGHT. WE'RE FLYING TO
THE RAINFOREST TOMORROW.



MOON! COME FLYING
WITH ME!

UM... QIBLI AND I TOLD
STARFLIGHT WE'D HELP
FIND MORE SCROLLS FOR
YOU. MAYBE LATER?

OF COURSE. NO PROBLEM.



I'LL GO FLYING!
I'M WAY MORE
INTERESTING THAN
MOON AND I'M NOT
TIRED.

YOU WILL BE
TOMORROW. THANK
YOU, PRINCESS, BUT
I'LL BE FINE ALONE
TONIGHT.



DARKSTALKER
LOOKS SO...
LONELY.

LIKE THE WOUNDED SEAWING
SOLDIERS BACK HOME. THE ONES WHO
CAN'T SWIM ANYMORE, WHO LOST A
TAIL OR A LIMB OR A WING AND DON'T
QUITE KNOW YET HOW TO GO ON
LIVING WITHOUT THEM.



SHOULD I
FOLLOW HIM?

I CAN'T WATCH
DARKSTALKER EVERY SECOND
FOREVER. I HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL
NIGHT, AND I SPENT YESTERDAY
FLYING ACROSS THE CONTINENT.
I HAVE TO SLEEP SOMETIME.

TURTLE DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO HIS OWN SLEEPING CAVE. HE'D HAD TROUBLE SLEEPING THERE SINCE UMBER RAN AWAY. THE CAVE FELT EMPTY, BARE AND SCRAPED OF LIFE.

QUEEN CORAL'S SONS WERE ALMOST ALWAYS TOGETHER. THEY SHARED ROOMS AND CLASSES AND PREY. THEY FILLED THE PALACES WITH THE SOUNDS OF WRESTLING MATCHES AND GAMES.

WHEN ONE DID SOMETHING WRONG, THE PUNISHMENT WAS ALMOST ALWAYS ISOLATION. SOMETIMES IT WAS IMPOSED FROM ABOVE. SOMETIMES THE BROTHERS BANDED TOGETHER TO EXILE ONE OF THEIR OWN.

AFTER TURTLE FAILED HIS FATHER, HIS BROTHERS CARRIED OUT HIS PUNISHMENT THEMSELVES. NOBODY SPOKE TO HIM. HE WAS LEFT TO SLEEP IN AN EMPTY ROOM. HIS BROTHERS BEHAVED AS IF HE DIDN'T EXIST.

TURTLE FELT HIS SENSE OF DRAGONHOOD DISSOLVING INTO THE OCEAN LIKE A MIST OF INK. IF NO ONE SAW YOU, WERE YOU REAL? IF NO ONE SPOKE TO YOU, HOW LONG COULD YOU GO ON EXISTING BEFORE DISAPPEARING COMPLETELY?

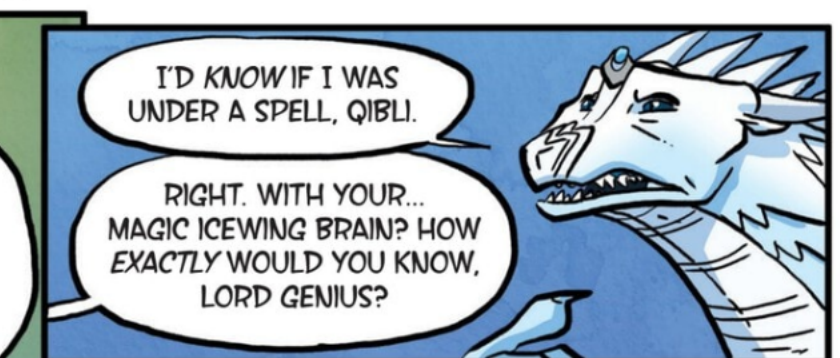
WHICH WAS WHY HE'D FINALLY USED HIS MAGIC ON THEM.

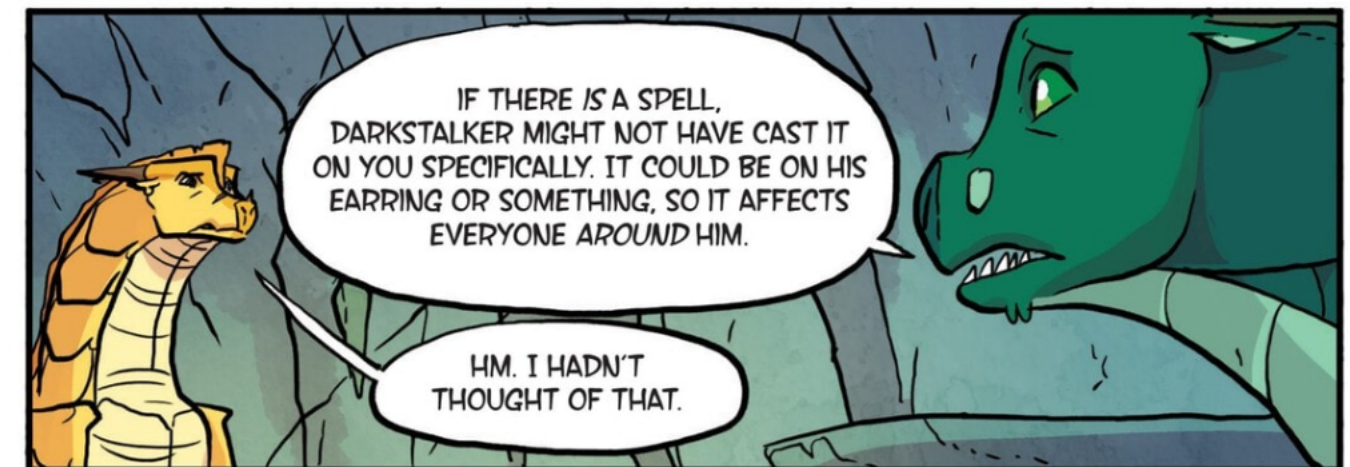
HE CRACKED AN ENCHANTED SEAGULL EGG INTO THE FISH STEW ONE NIGHT, AND SUDDENLY FORGIVENESS WAS HIS.

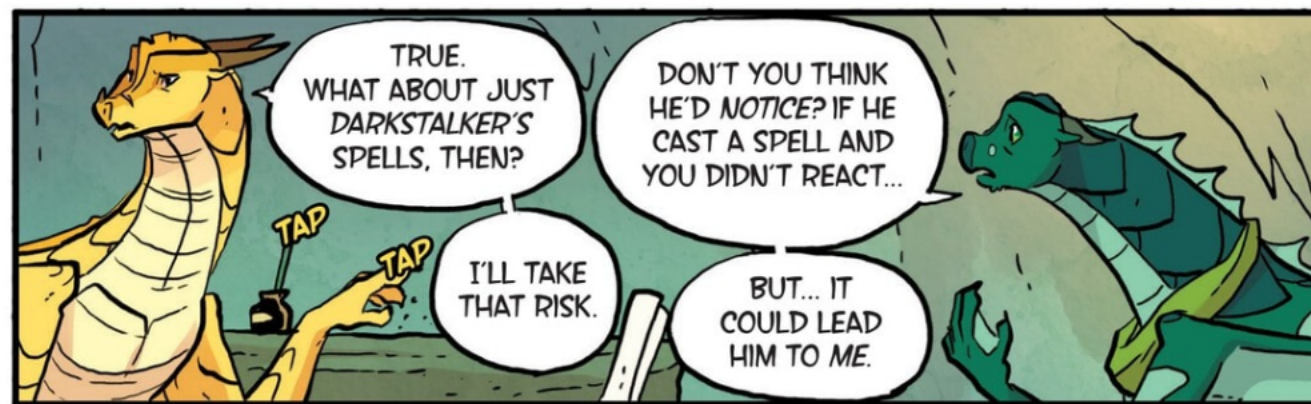
BUT IT LEFT HIM WITH AN UNSHAKABLE SENSE OF DOUBT. WOULD THEY EVER HAVE FORGIVEN HIM ON THEIR OWN?

HE KNEW HE HADN'T EARNED THEIR BEGUILED FRIENDLINESS, THE FALSE TIDE OF MERCY THAT WASHED AWAY HIS SINS.

EMPTY CAVES REMINDED HIM OF THAT FEELING—FIRST THE LONELINESS, THEN THE GUILT. SO, INSTEAD OF GOING TO HIS OWN CAVE, HE SLIPPED QUIETLY DOWN TO WINTER AND QIBLI'S ROOM.







TRUE.
WHAT ABOUT JUST
DARKSTALKER'S
SPELLS, THEN?

DON'T YOU THINK
HE'D NOTICE? IF HE
CAST A SPELL AND
YOU DIDN'T REACT...

I'LL TAKE
THAT RISK.

BUT... IT
COULD LEAD
HIM TO ME.



YOU'RE A
WORRYING EXPERT,
AREN'T YOU,
TURTLE?

I'M SORRY. I LIKE
TO THINK THROUGH
EVERYTHING AS MUCH
AS POSSIBLE BEFORE
MAKING DECISIONS.

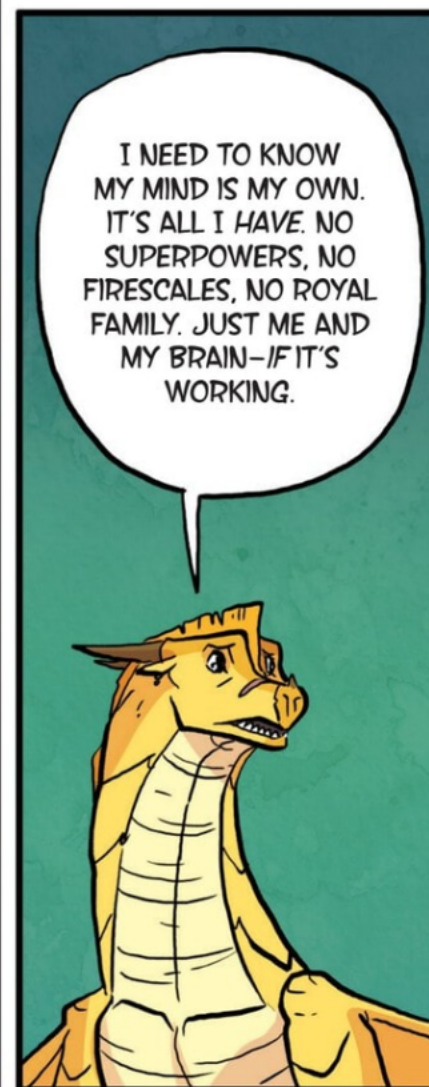


THAT'S ALL
RIGHT. IT'S
SMART.

AND IT'S YOUR MAGIC.
YOU'RE THE BOSS OF
WHETHER YOU WANT
TO USE IT.



I JUST LOOK AT
WINTER AND THINK:
THAT'S NOT NORMAL
BEHAVIOR FOR QUEEN
GLACIER'S NEPHEW.
THEN I WONDER, WHAT
IF I'M ACTING LIKE A
SUNBAKED LIZARD,
TOO?



I NEED TO KNOW
MY MIND IS MY OWN.
IT'S ALL I HAVE. NO
SUPERPOWERS, NO
FIRESCALES, NO ROYAL
FAMILY. JUST ME AND
MY BRAIN—IF IT'S
WORKING.



OF COURSE I'LL DO IT,
QIBLI. IMMUNE TO DARKSTALKER'S
SPELLS—THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

YES! THAT WOULD
BE AMAZING!

HERE, ENCHANT
MY EARRING.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL
SAY, TURTLE? WANT ME TO
WRITE DOWN SOME IDEAS?

IF THIS WORKS, WE
COULD DO ONE FOR
WINTER, TOO, RIGHT?



...SURE.

HERE I GO AGAIN.
HELPING MY FRIENDS,
WHICH COULD MEAN
GETTING NOTICED, WHICH
WILL SURELY LEAD TO GETTING
DISMEMBERED BY A GIANT
NIGHTMARE DRAGON FROM
THE PAST.



The Wishing Fish

I WONDER
WHAT ROLE QIBLI
THINKS I PLAY IN
THIS STORY.

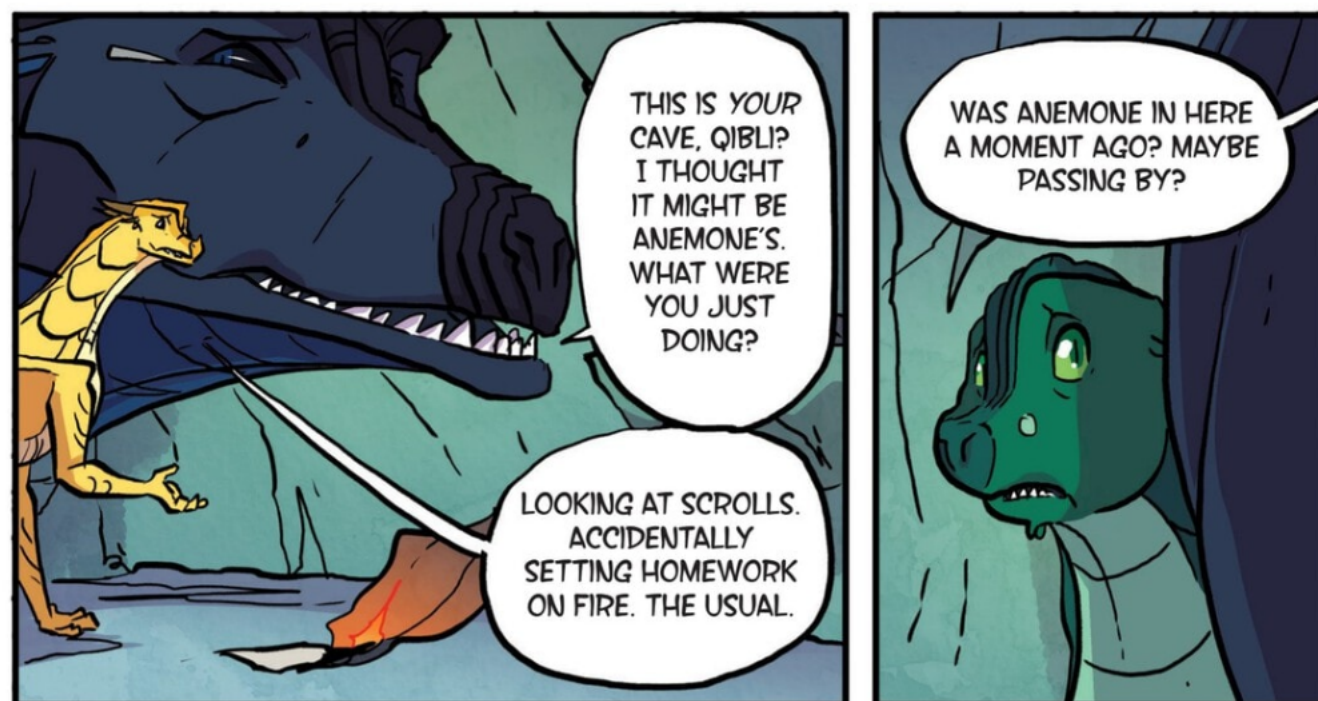
MAYBE I'M THE MAGIC
FISH WHO GRANTS THREE
WISHES. YOU'VE GOT TWO
LEFT, QIBLI, THEN I TURN
YOUR NOSE INTO
A SAUSAGE.



WAIT, TURTLE, YOU
SHOULD PROTECT YOUR
SOUL FIRST. THAT'S MORE
IMPORTANT.

LET'S DO THIS FIRST.
IT COULD TAKE ME ALL NIGHT
TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO WORD
THE SOUL SPELL.





THIS IS YOUR CAVE, QIBLI? I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ANEMONE'S. WHAT WERE YOU JUST DOING?

LOOKING AT SCROLLS. ACCIDENTALLY SETTING HOMEWORK ON FIRE. THE USUAL.

WAS ANEMONE IN HERE A MOMENT AGO? MAYBE PASSING BY?



THREE MOONS. I USE MAGIC AND DARKSTALKER SHOWS UP MOMENTS LATER?

HE CAN SENSE ANIMUS MAGIC.

I CAN NEVER USE MY MAGIC AGAIN.



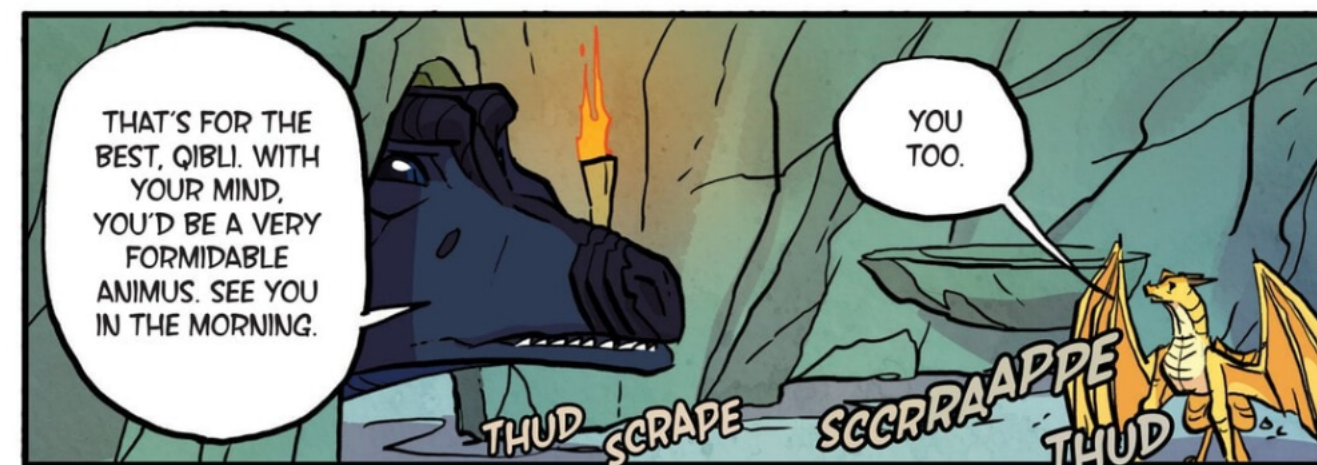
OH... ANEMONE, YEAH. SHE MIGHT HAVE PASSED BY A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

QIBLI... PLEASE ORDER THAT SCROLL TO ROLL ITSELF UP.

HA. DON'T YOU THINK I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE HOPING MAGIC WOULD SUDDENLY POP OUT OF MY CLAWS?

HEY, SCROLL, ROLL YOURSELF UP.

NOPE. DISAPPOINTED AGAIN.



THAT'S FOR THE BEST, QIBLI. WITH YOUR MIND, YOU'D BE A VERY FORMIDABLE ANIMUS. SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.

YOU TOO.



HE KNEW SOMEONE HAD USED ANIMUS MAGIC. HE MUST HAVE ENCHANTED SOMETHING TO WARN HIM. I CAN'T USE MY MAGIC ANYMORE!

BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW WHO DID IT, JUST WHERE. MAYBE IF YOU STOOD NEAR ANEMONE OR STONEMOVER...



BUT IF THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T USE MAGIC, WOULD HE THINK THEY'RE LYING? I DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK ANEMONE IS SECRETLY USING MAGIC AGAINST HIM!

YEAH, THAT COULD BE BAD.



ARRRRRRRGH!

I'M GOING HOME! HE CAN'T FOLLOW ME THERE.

UNLESS HE CAN! HE COULD USE MAGIC TO BREATHE UNDERWATER. OR MAKE THE OCEAN EVAPORATE!

HE COULD DO ANYTHING!



TURTLE, STOP PANICKING! THIS DOESN'T PROVE HE'S EVIL, JUST CAUTIOUS. WE'LL KEEP WATCHING HIM.

I CAN'T KEEP WATCHING HIM. HE'S TAKING THE NIGHTWINGS TO THE RAINFOREST TOMORROW.

ALL THE NIGHTWINGS? INCLUDING MOON?

I DON'T KNOW. I THINK SO.



...I DON'T HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE TO GO WITH THEM.

IT'LL HAVE TO BE YOU, TURTLE.



ME?

SO WE CAN SEE WHAT HE DOES NEXT. I'LL WATCH THINGS HERE. THEN WE'LL REPORT BACK TO EACH OTHER. IF ONLY WE HAD A DREAMVISITOR FOR SENDING MESSAGES...



OH, I'M NOT THE ENCHANTED FISH. QIBLI THINKS THIS IS A DETECTIVE STORY AND I'M HIS SIDEKICK.

BUT SIDEKICKS DON'T GET SENT ON CRAZY DANGEROUS MISSIONS ALONE!



BUT IF I'M THE SIDEKICK, THEN IT'S OK IF I'M INCOMPETENT. NO ONE WILL EXPECT ME TO SAVE THE DAY.

I MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING WE CAN USE, BACK IN MY CAVE...



WELL, HONESTLY, I'VE SEEN WEIRDER TREASURE IN THE SCORPION DEN.

PIECES OF WOOD (CAN BE ASSEMBLED INTO A BOWL)

PIECE OF CORAL

WRITING SLATES AND SLATE PENCIL

THESE ARE THE THINGS I'VE ANIMUS-TOUCHED.



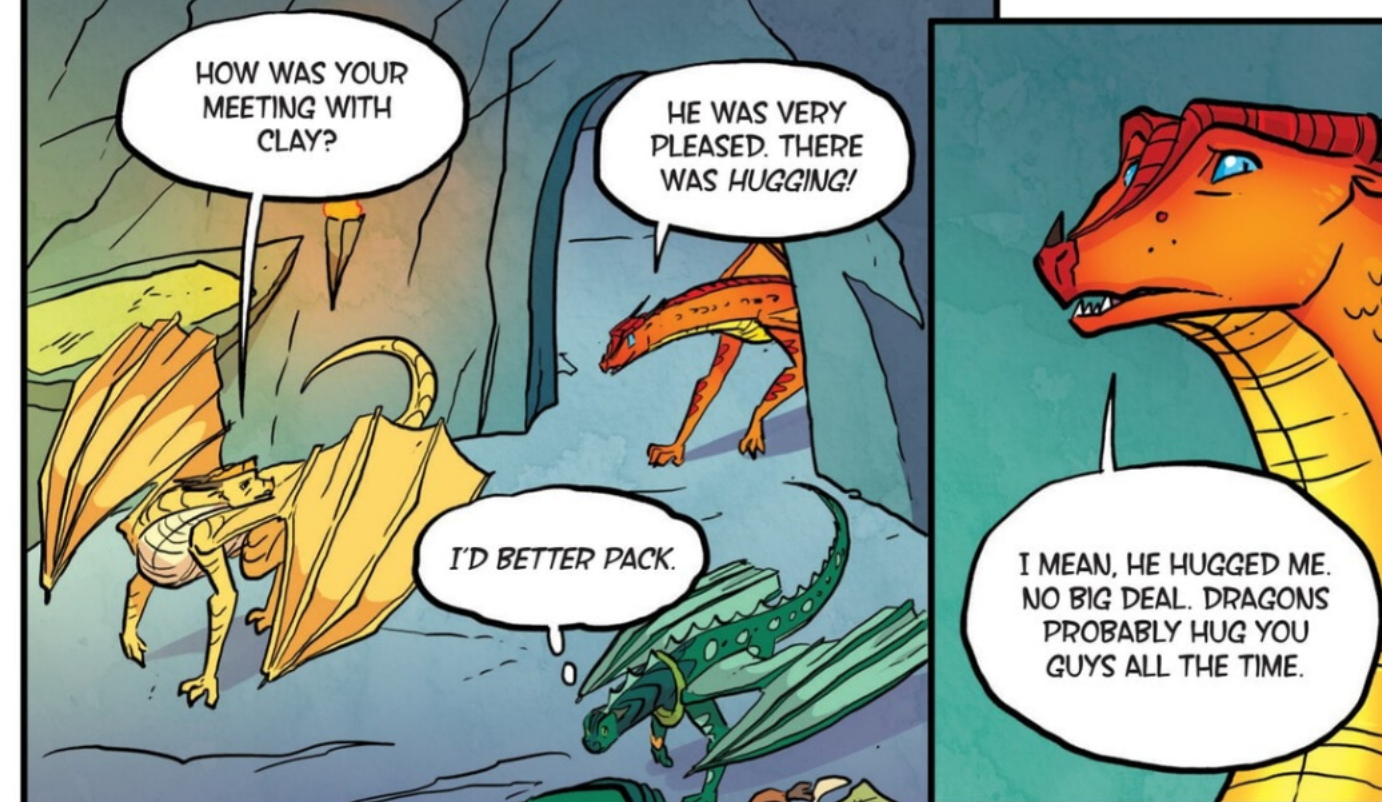
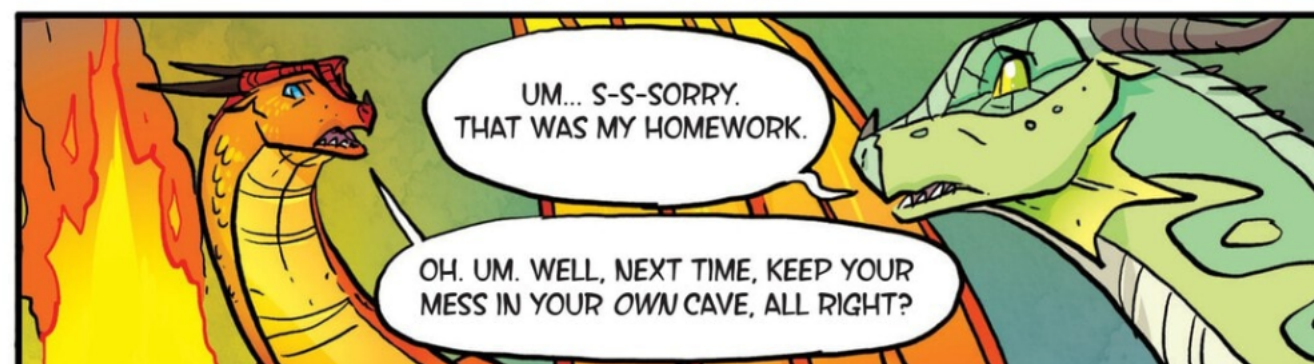
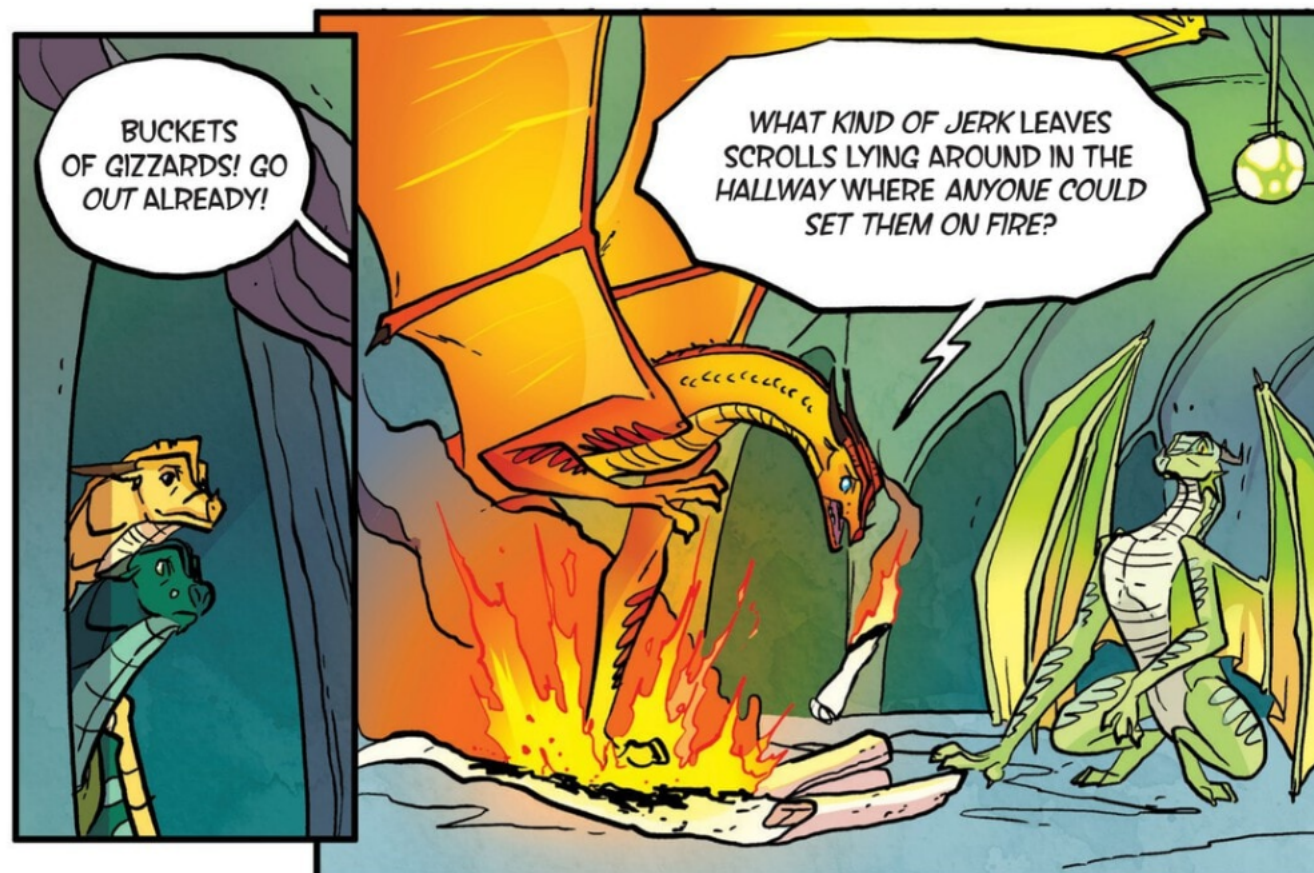
OH! WHAT DO THEY DO? PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES FROM HARM? SMITE YOUR ENEMIES? MAKE EVERYBODY LOVE YOU?

ER... NO. THE CORAL HELPS ME FIND THINGS I'VE LOST. THE WOOD PIECES FORM A BOWL THAT DOUBLES THE FOOD YOU PUT INTO IT. I CAN DROP ANY FOOD IN AND SAY, "TWICE AS MUCH, PLEASE!" SO INSTEAD OF TWO MUSSELS, I'D HAVE FOUR. THAT KIND OF THING.

HUH. I THOUGHT A PRINCE WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD.

WELL... I WAS STILL COMPETING WITH MY BROTHERS. AND SOMETIMES I'D GET HUNGRY AND WOULDN'T WANT TO HUNT, YOU KNOW?









WHY ARE YOU COMING ALONG, TURTLE?

I JUST WANT TO... SEE WHAT DARKSTALKER DOES.

IN CASE HE DOES SOMETHING SUPER EVIL? YOU JELLYFISH. HE'S RESCUING HIS TRIBE.



QUEEN GLORY RESCUED THE NIGHTWINGS, ANEMONE. THEY'RE SAFE NOW.

RIGHT, SURE, SAFE TO BE CRUSHED SEASHELLS UNDER RAINWING TALONS.



THINK ABOUT IT, BIG BROTHER. IMAGINE MOTHER DIED AND I WAS TOO SPINELESS TO TAKE THE THRONE, SO THE SEAWINGS DECIDED TO GO LIVE IN THE MUD KINGDOM AND LET QUEEN MOORHEN BOSS US AROUND.



IS THAT ANY WAY FOR A SELF-RESPECTING TRIBE TO LIVE?



DID YOU GET IN TROUBLE WITH DARKSTALKER LAST NIGHT? I HEARD HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.

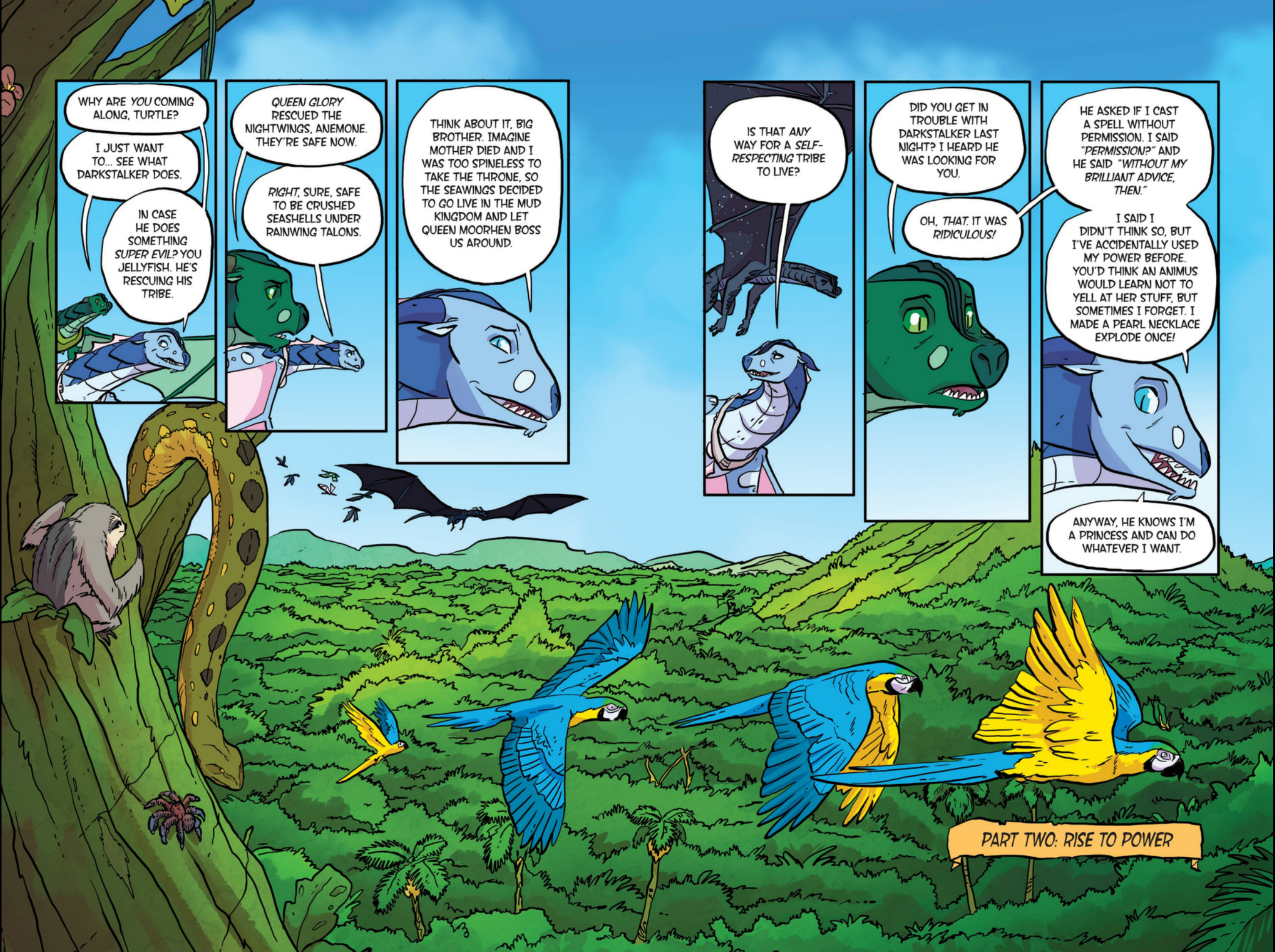
OH, THAT. IT WAS RIDICULOUS!



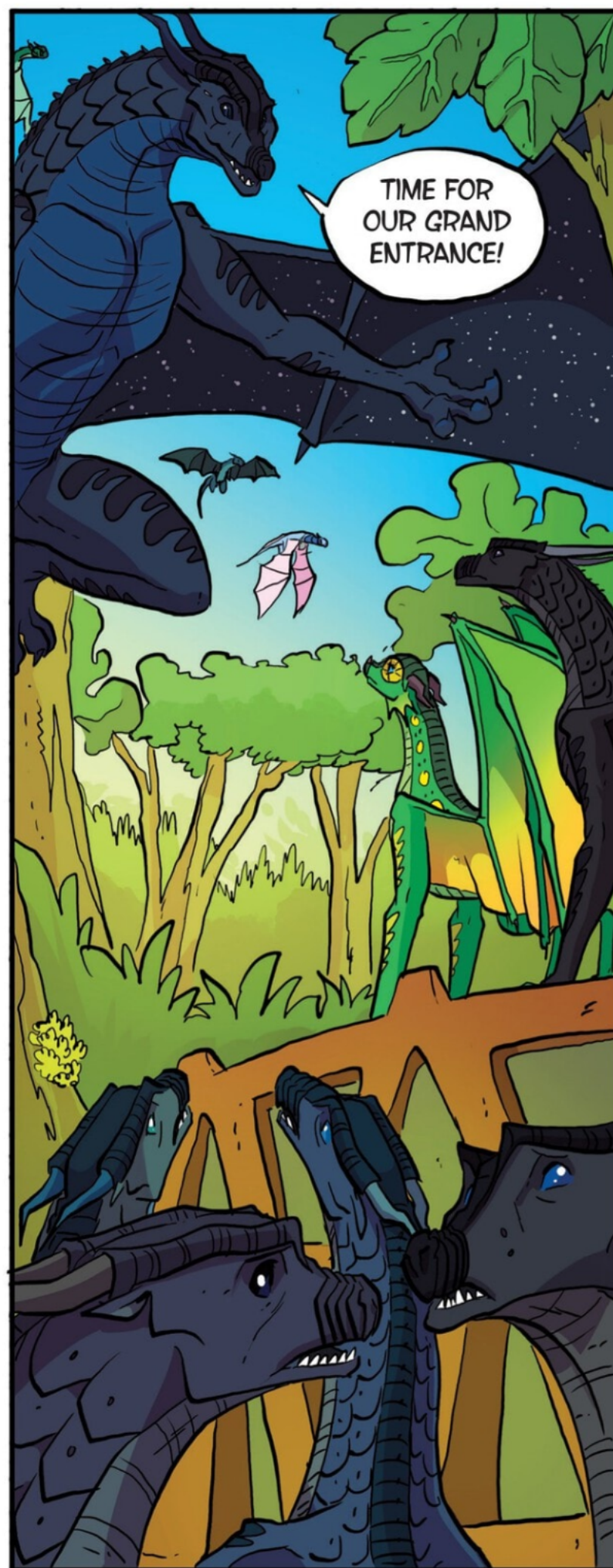
HE ASKED IF I CAST A SPELL WITHOUT PERMISSION. I SAID "PERMISSION?" AND HE SAID "WITHOUT MY BRILLIANT ADVICE, THEN."

I SAID I DIDN'T THINK SO, BUT I'VE ACCIDENTALLY USED MY POWER BEFORE. YOU'D THINK AN ANIMUS WOULD LEARN NOT TO YELL AT HER STUFF, BUT SOMETIMES I FORGET. I MADE A PEARL NECKLACE EXPLODE ONCE!

ANYWAY, HE KNOWS I'M A PRINCESS AND CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.



PART TWO: RISE TO POWER



TIME FOR
OUR GRAND
ENTRANCE!



QUEEN
GLORY.

DARKSTALKER,
I PRESUME.



HMMPH



ANEMONE LOOKS
PRETTY MAD THAT
DARKSTALKER DIDN'T
MAKE ROOM FOR HER
ON THE PLATFORM.



I SEE SUNNY USED THE
DREAMVISITOR TO TELL
YOU WE WERE COMING.
EVEN THOUGH I ASKED
HER VERY NICELY NOT
TO. INTERESTING.

THE TRIBE
PREFERS NOT TO
BE SURPRISED.



BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, DESPITE
YOUR PREDICTION, NO ONE HAS
RUN AWAY. THEY CHOSE TO BE
BRAVE AND FACE YOU.

THERE'S NO NEED
TO BE BRAVE. I'M NOT
A MONSTER.



MY FELLOW NIGHTWINGS,
THE HISTORY YOU'VE BEEN
FED IS *LIES*. THEY CALLED ME
EVIL—SAID I WAS IMPRISONED
FOR YOUR PROTECTION. NONE
OF THAT IS *TRUE*.

I HAD A *MAJESTIC* FUTURE
PLANNED FOR US. PEACE, SECURITY, AND
WEALTH FOR EVERY DRAGON. BUT ON THE
BRINK OF CHANGING EVERYTHING, I WAS
BETRAYED. DRAGONS I THOUGHT I COULD
TRUST—DRAGONS WHO *FEARED* MY VISION—
TRAPPED ME UNDERGROUND FOR TWO
THOUSAND YEARS.

MEANWHILE,
OUR TRIBE LOST ITS
POWER AND ITS
HOME.

THE HISTORIES WERE WRITTEN
BY DECEITFUL DRAGONS WHO
FEARED MY POWERS. AM I *EVIL*?
NO. *MURDEROUS*? NOT EVEN
REMOVEDLY. *DANGEROUS*? NOT TO
MY TRIBE OR MY FRIENDS.

HERE'S THE *REAL TRUTH*. I LOVE OUR
TRIBE. NIGHTWINGS WERE ONCE THE
MOST POWERFUL, RESPECTED, AND
CREATIVE TRIBE IN PYRRHIA.

AND I CAN SHOW YOU
THE WAY TO *BECOME*
THAT TRIBE AGAIN.

GASP!

WHOA!



THESE DRAGONS
ARE SMART, FIERCE,
DETERMINED, AND FULL
OF SURPRISING IDEAS.
THEY DON'T NEED HELP TO
BECOME A GREAT TRIBE—
THEY ARE ONE.

GLORY, I'M SURE THEY ARE,
BUT I KNOW WHAT THEY
COULD BE. I CAN SEE THE
SHINING FUTURE AHEAD IF
EVERYONE FOLLOWS ME.



FOLLOWS YOU? FOLLOWS
YOU WHERE?

AH, DEATHBRINGER,
THE LOYAL
BODYGUARD.

BACK
TO OUR OLD
KINGDOM, OF
COURSE.



"QUEEN"
GLORY.

I'M HERE TO
CHALLENGE YOU
FOR THE THRONE
OF THE NIGHTWING
TRIBE.

WHAT? NO TRIBE
HAS EVER HAD
A KING!

WHY AM I SHOCKED?
THIS FITS WITH EVERYTHING
ELSE DARKSTALKER'S DONE.
BUT STILL...



YOU CAN'T
DO THAT.

WHY CAN'T I, DEATHBRINGER?

GASP!



FOR ONE THING, YOU'RE MALE. FOR ANOTHER, YOU'RE NOT ROYALTY.

GLORY DOESN'T EXACTLY HAVE ROYAL NIGHTWING BLOOD EITHER.



JUST BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER HAD A KING BEFORE DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ONE.

THINGS CHANGE. WE'RE DRAGONS, NOT ANTS.



DARKSTALKER! YOU PROMISED NOT TO HURT MY FRIENDS!

FEEL FREE TO CHECK ON YOUR FRIENDS, MOON. YOU'LL FIND THEY'RE PERFECTLY SAFE AND UNHARMED.



BUT QUEEN GLORY'S MY FRIEND. I DON'T WANT YOU TO KILL HER.

OH, MOON. I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYBODY... BUT WE'RE DRAGONS. THERE'S A WAY THESE THINGS MUST BE DONE.



I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE. THE RAINWINGS NEED ME, TOO. IF I FOUGHT YOU, I'D BE PUTTING THEM AT RISK.

I COULD BE KING OF BOTH TRIBES!



HA HA, JUST A JOKE. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN RULING OVER SNOOZY VEGETARIANS.

THERE'S AN ALTERNATIVE. YOU COULD JUST GIVE ME THE NIGHTWING THRONE.



THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO THE DRAGONS WHO SWARE LOYALTY TO ME.

WELL. THEY DID HAVE A VOLCANO POINTED AT THEIR HEADS AT THE TIME.



AH... VERY INTERESTING IDEA, YOUR MAJESTY.



LET THE NIGHTWINGS CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES. I COULD AGREE TO THAT.

I HAVEN'T OFFERED YET. IN THIS ERA, IT'S CONSIDERED BAD MANNERS TO READ SOMEONE'S MIND.



APOLOGIES. BUT IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA. A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER—MAYBE DRAGONS HAVE EVOLVED.



SHALL WE HAVE A VOTE? KING DARKSTALKER OR QUEEN RAINWING?

NOT A VOTE. I DON'T WANT MY TR-ANY NIGHTWING FORCED TO LIVE WHERE THEY'RE UNHAPPY.

THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO STAY IN THE RAINFOREST—IN THE VILLAGE YOU BUILT YOURSELVES—ARE WELCOME HERE FOREVER. THOSE WHO'D RATHER FOLLOW DARKSTALKER ARE FREE TO GO.



BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE NOW. GET TO KNOW ME FIRST! I PRESUME QUEEN GLORY WON'T MIND IF I STAY A DAY OR TWO TO REACQUAINT MYSELF.

BE OUR GUEST.

SEE? I KNEW I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL GLORY, BUT I HAD TO PRESENT MYSELF AS A *STRONG* LEADER.

THAT'S WHAT DRAGONS UNDERSTAND.

ONE TRUE THING ABOUT DARKSTALKER: HE CARES ABOUT MOON.

BUT HOW DOES MOON FEEL? WILL SHE FOLLOW HIM? IF SHE CHOOSES QUEEN GLORY, HOW WILL HE REACT?

DARKSTALKER WANTS TO BE NIGHTWING KING.
NIGHTWINGS DECIDING WHAT THEY WANT

LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF NIGHTWINGS ARE CURIOUS ABOUT DARKSTALKER. I GUESS I'D BE CURIOUS ABOUT A TWO-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD LEGEND, TOO, EVEN IF HE WEREN'T ALSO CAMPAIGNING TO BE KING.

THAT DOES SOUND DREADFUL. YOU KNOW, THE NIGHT KINGDOM DOESN'T HAVE ANY MOSQUITOES.

COME ON, FATHER! YOU HAVE TO MEET HIM. HE'S GOT AMAZING POWERS!

SO I HEAR.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? HE'S SHARING THEM! IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

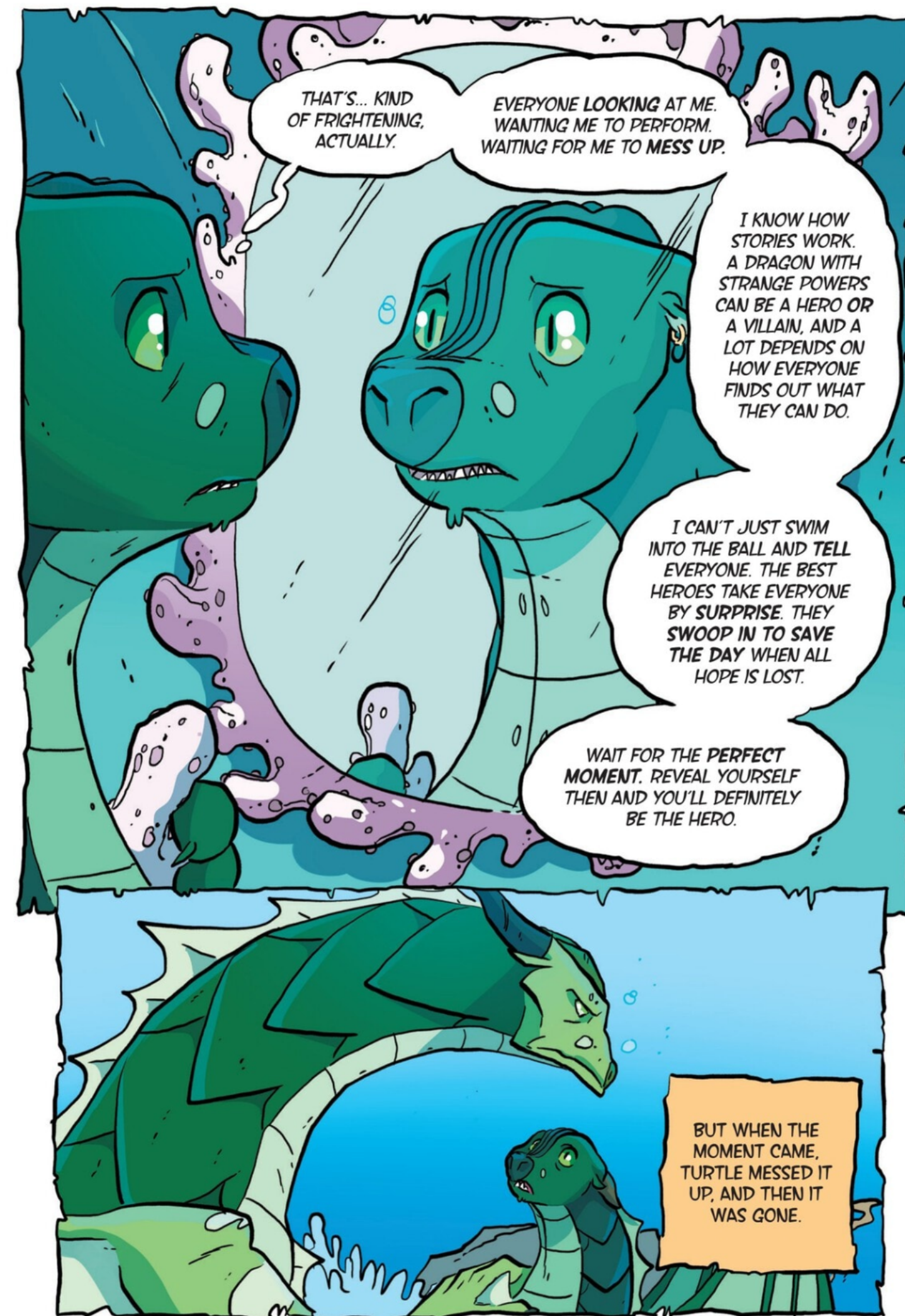
SNORT

TO BE AN ANIMUS, OF COURSE. IS ANYTHING MORE POWERFUL?











IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL
AND PEACEFUL.

THE THOUGHT OF
FIVE SUPERPOWERED
NIGHTWINGS ONLY A SHORT
FLIGHT AWAY...

TUG TUG

HALT! WHAT
BUSINESS DO
YOU HAVE WITH
THE QUEEN?



UM, I'M HERE WITH
PRINCESS ANEMONE.
I THOUGHT QUEEN
GLORY SHOULD KNOW
WHAT DARKSTALKER'S
BEEN UP TO.

TUG
TUG

I'M RELUCTANT TO WAKE
THE QUEEN DURING HER
SUNTIME. IS IT URGENT?



DEATHBRINGER, ARE
YOU FAMILIAR WITH
THE CONCEPT OF
EARS? YOU WOKE ME
UP ALREADY.

"HALT,"
REALLY? WHO
SAYS THAT?



I THOUGHT IT
SOUNDED DIGNIFIED
AND COMMANDING.

OR LIKE A
PRETENTIOUS
NIGHTWING.

I AM A
PRETENTIOUS
NIGHTWING!

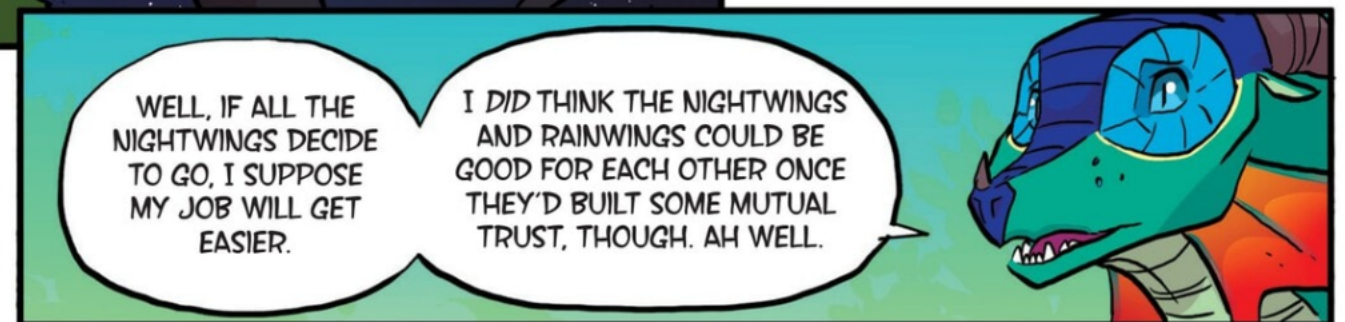
QUEEN GLORY, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT DARKSTALKER IS GIVING THE
NIGHTWINGS POWERS—MIND READING,
SUPERSTRENGTH, HEALING...

WOW. IT'LL BE HARD TO
COMPETE WITH THAT.

TUG!
TUG!

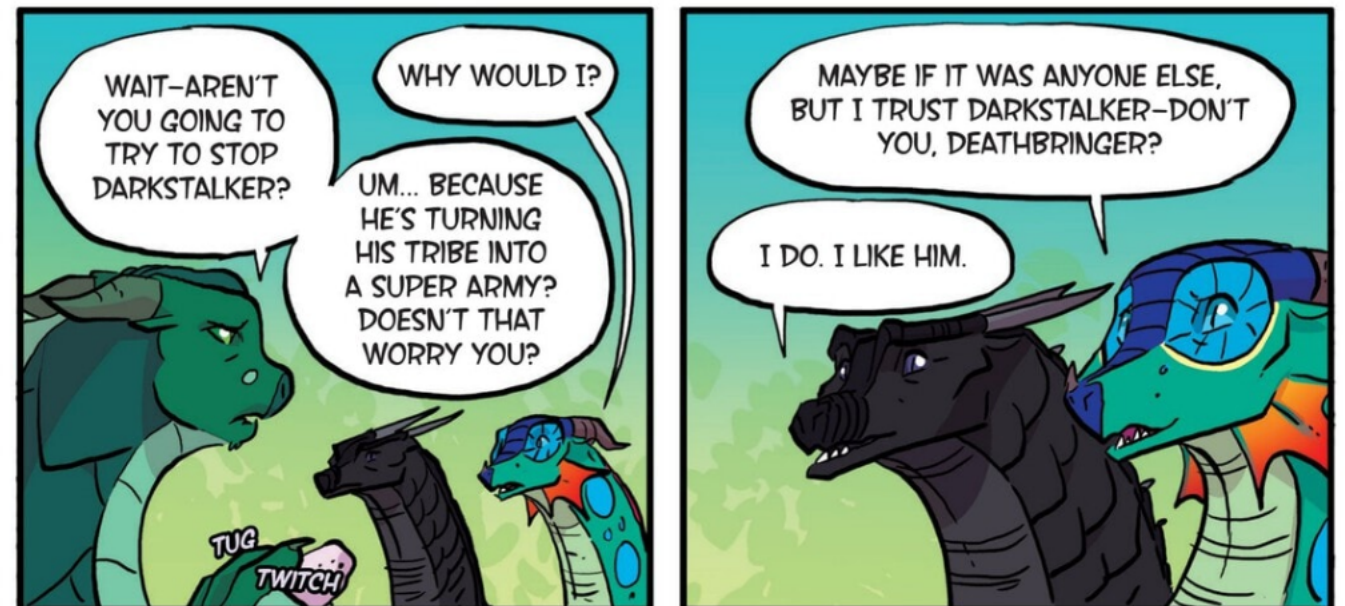
I WOULDN'T LEAVE
YOU, EVEN FOR A
SUPERPOWER.

THAT IS YOUR
SUPERPOWER.
EXTREME
HEROIC IDIOTCY.



WELL, IF ALL THE
NIGHTWINGS DECIDE
TO GO, I SUPPOSE
MY JOB WILL GET
EASIER.

I DID THINK THE NIGHTWINGS
AND RAINWINGS COULD BE
GOOD FOR EACH OTHER ONCE
THEY'D BUILT SOME MUTUAL
TRUST, THOUGH. AH WELL.



WAIT—AREN'T
YOU GOING TO
TRY TO STOP
DARKSTALKER?

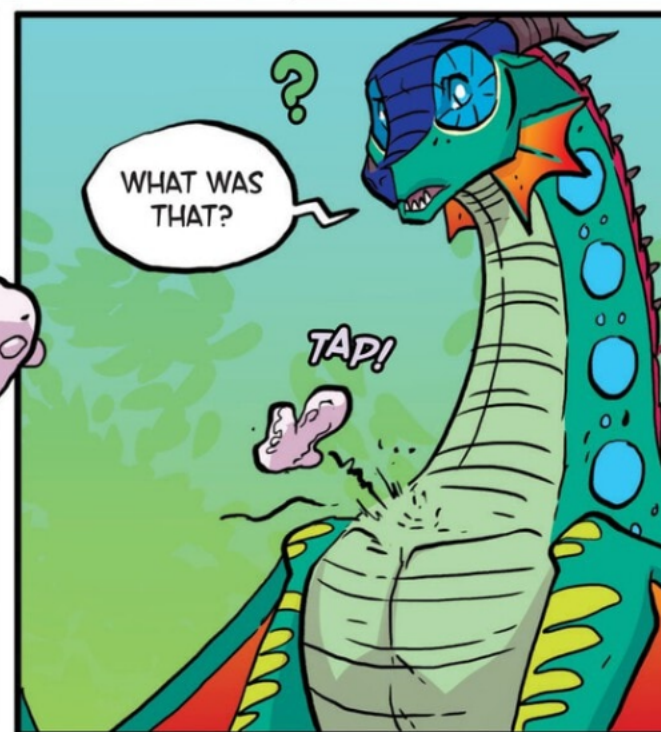
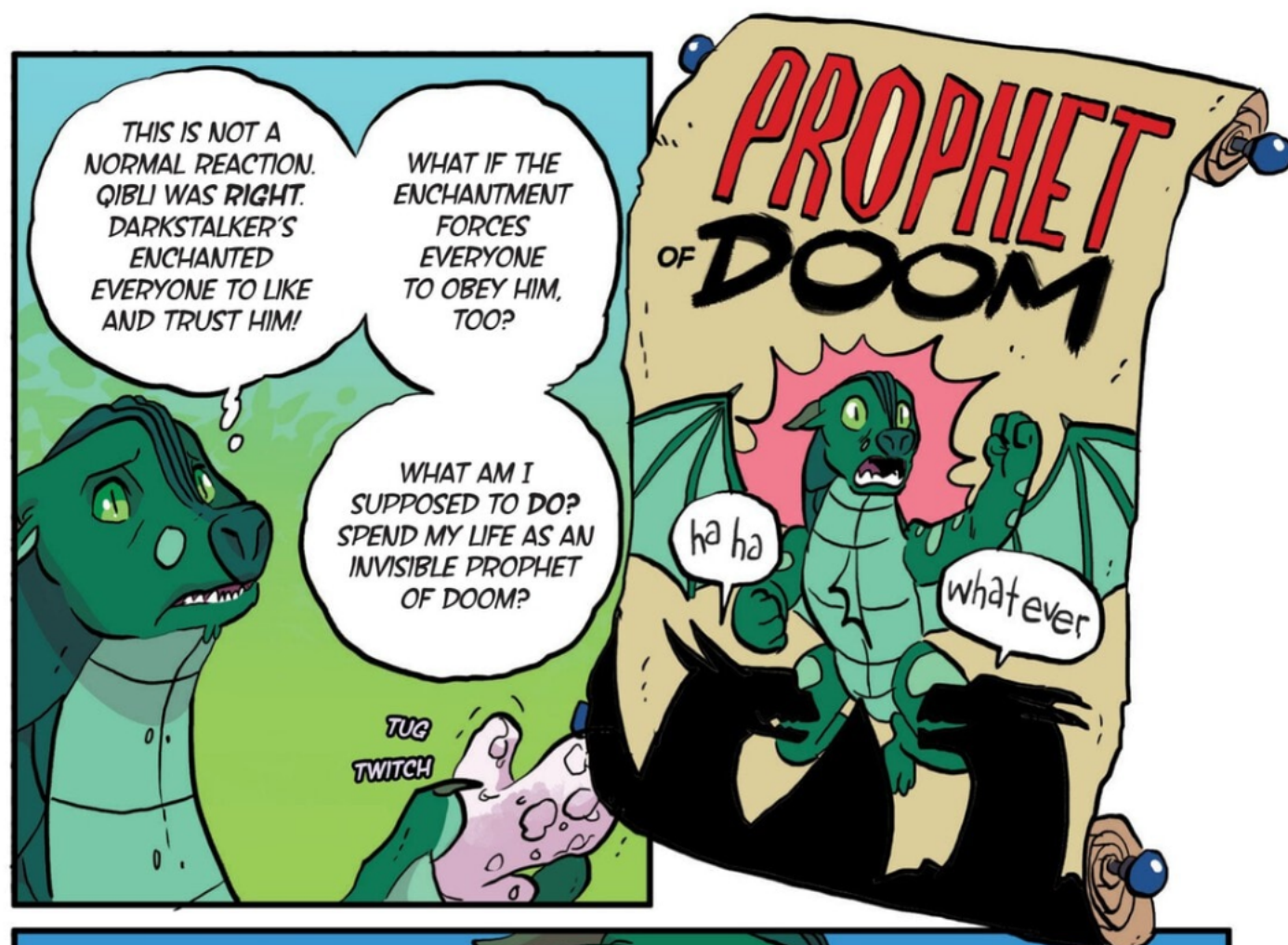
WHY WOULD I?

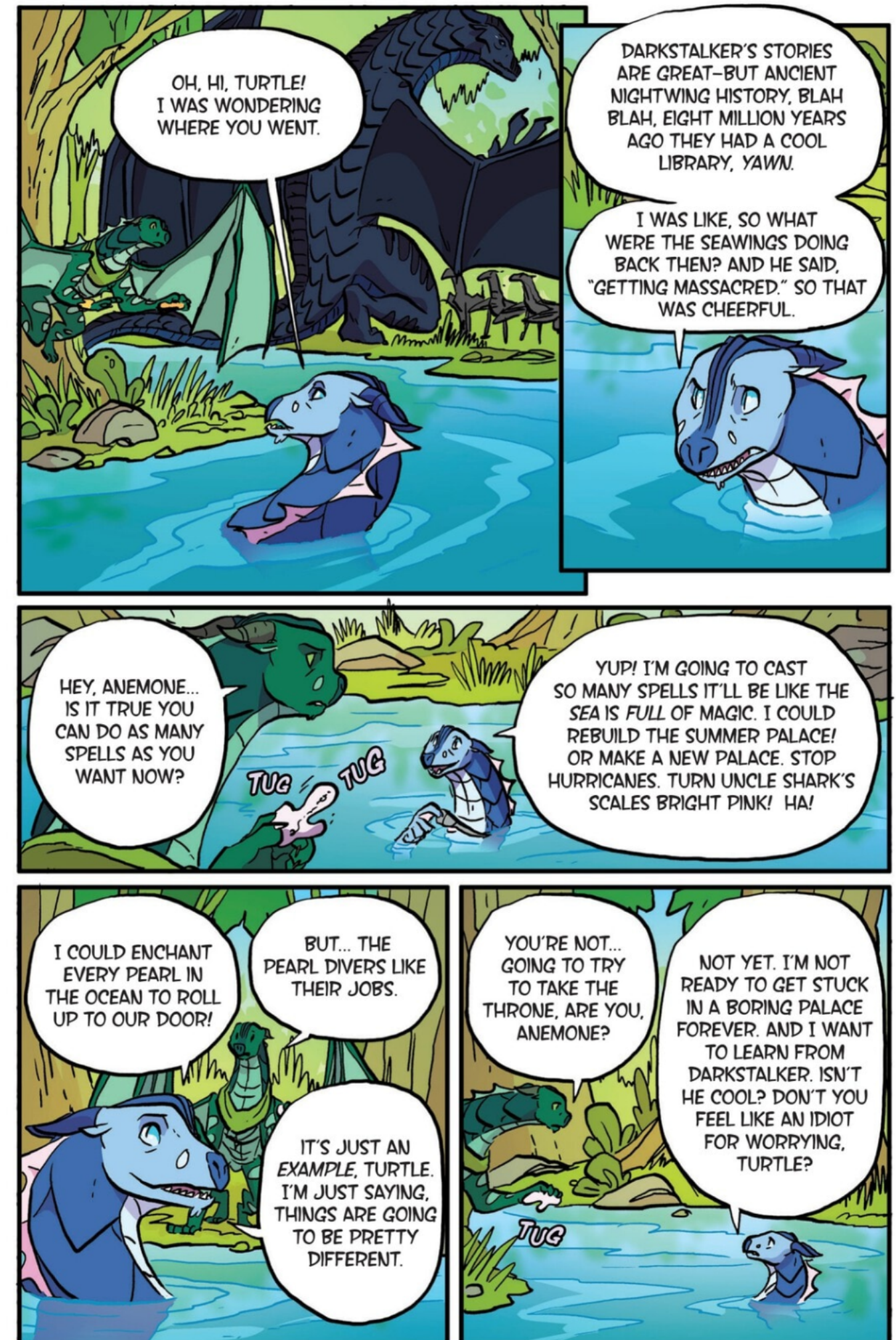
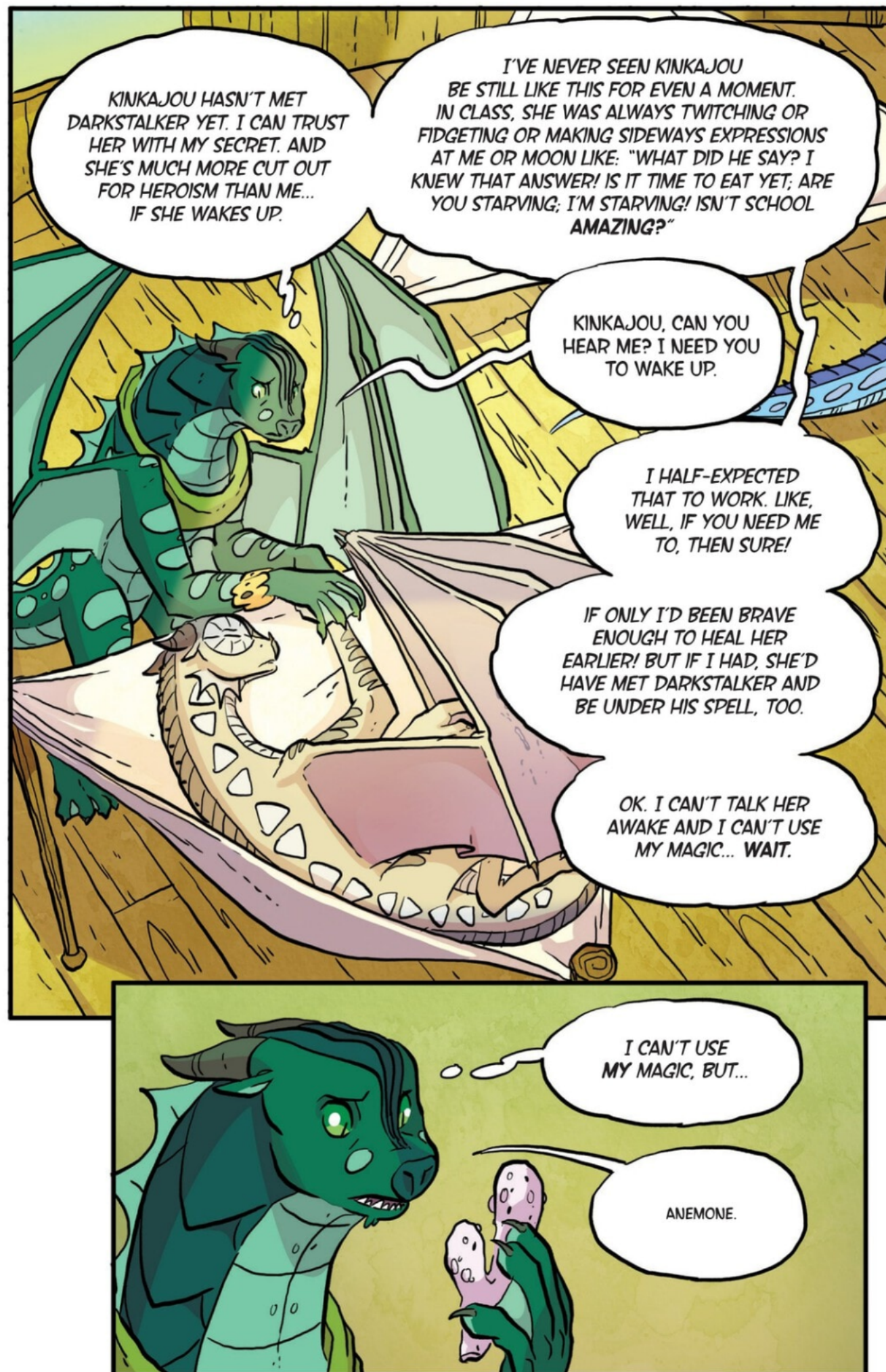
UM... BECAUSE
HE'S TURNING
HIS TRIBE INTO
A SUPER ARMY?
DOESN'T THAT
WORRY YOU?

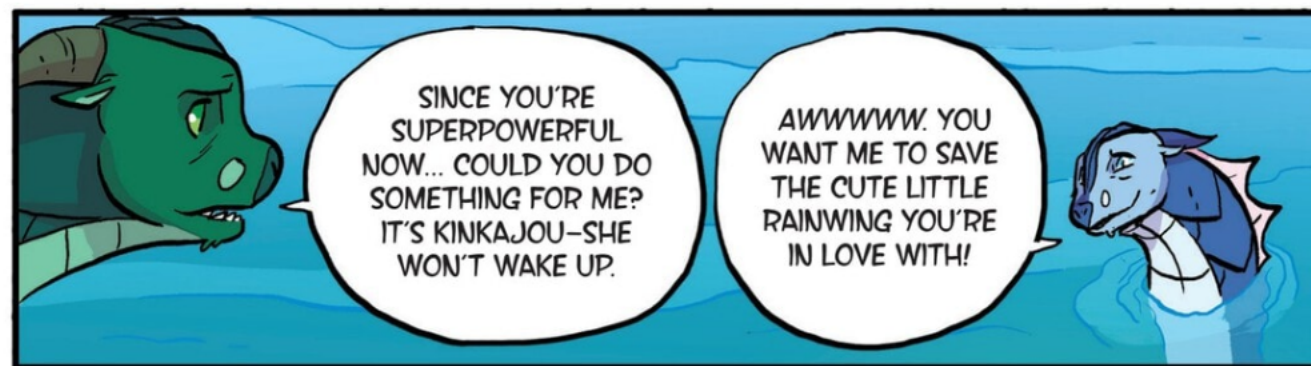
TUG
TWITCH!

MAYBE IF IT WAS ANYONE ELSE,
BUT I TRUST DARKSTALKER—DON'T
YOU, DEATHBRINGER?

I DO. I LIKE HIM.







SINCE YOU'RE SUPERPOWERFUL NOW... COULD YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME? IT'S KINKAJOU—SHE WON'T WAKE UP.

AWWWWWW. YOU WANT ME TO SAVE THE CUTE LITTLE RAINWING YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH!



I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HER!



SHE'S JUST—YOU KNOW, SHE'S AWESOME—I WANT HER TO GET BETTER.



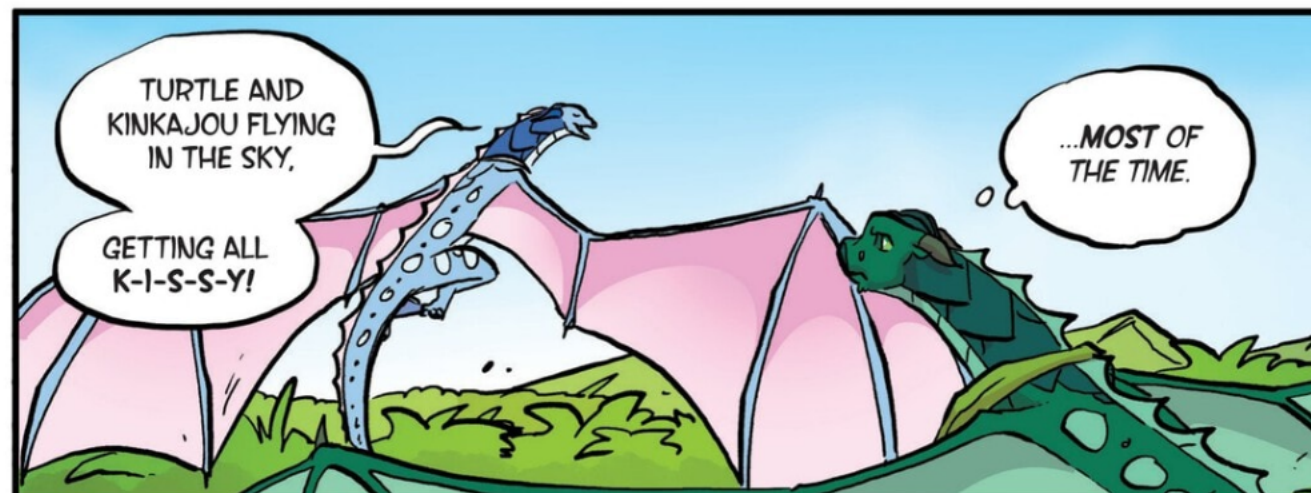
I CAN TOTALLY DO THAT. BUT I AM GOING TO TEASE YOU ABOUT IT FOREVER. YOU LOOOOOOOOOOOVE HER. TAKE ME TO YOUR SLEEPING BEAUTY.

OH, BROTHER.



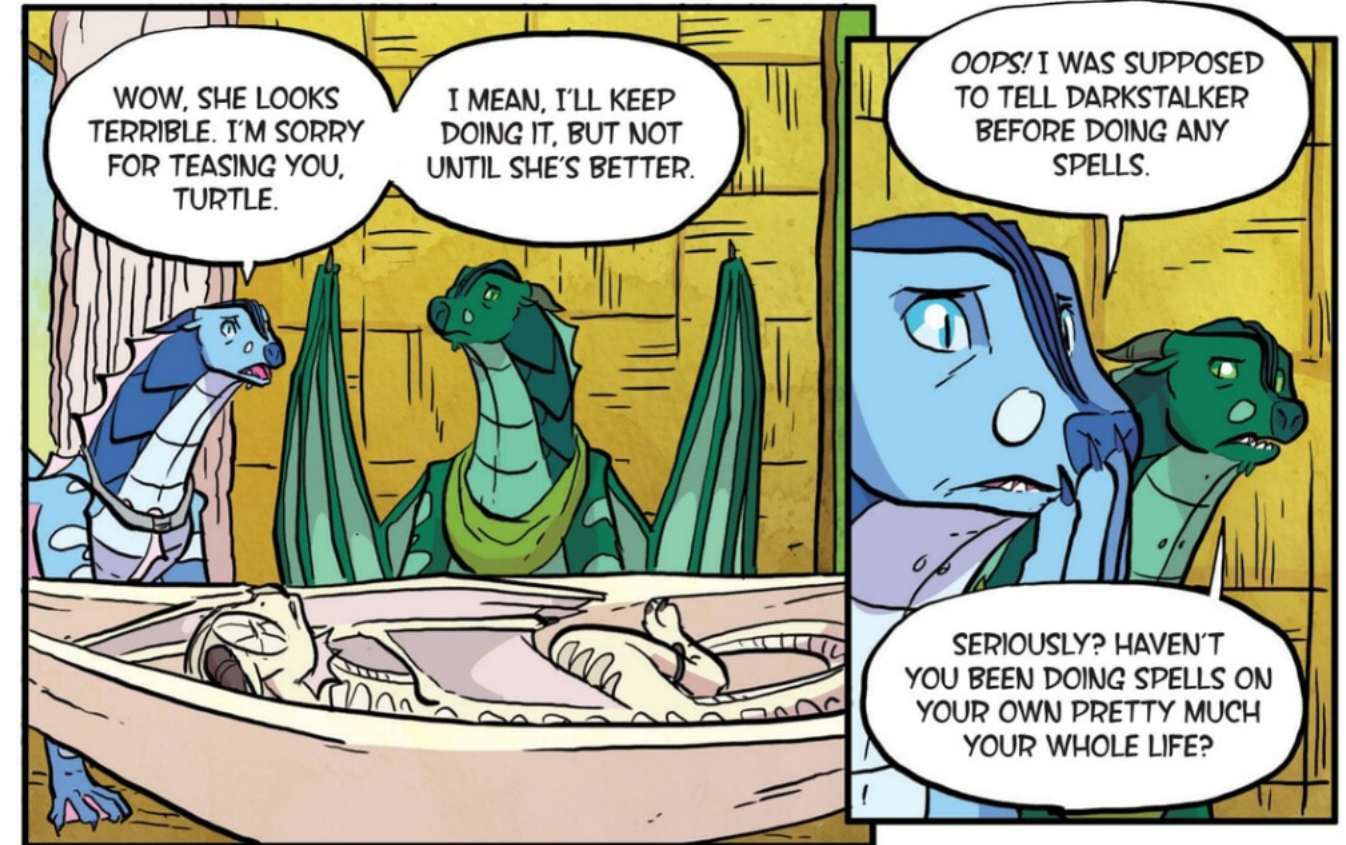
I NEVER GOT TO KNOW ANEMONE UNTIL WE WENT TO SCHOOL. SHE'S FUNNY AND HAPPY A LOT OF THE TIME, BUT SHE'S GOT A DARK STREAK THAT'S... WORRYING.

ESPECIALLY BECAUSE I LIKE HER.



TURTLE AND KINKAJOU FLYING IN THE SKY, GETTING ALL K-I-S-S-Y!

...MOST OF THE TIME.



WOW, SHE LOOKS TERRIBLE. I'M SORRY FOR TEASING YOU, TURTLE.

I MEAN, I'LL KEEP DOING IT, BUT NOT UNTIL SHE'S BETTER.

OOPS! I WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL DARKSTALKER BEFORE DOING ANY SPELLS.

SERIOUSLY? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN DOING SPELLS ON YOUR OWN PRETTY MUCH YOUR WHOLE LIFE?

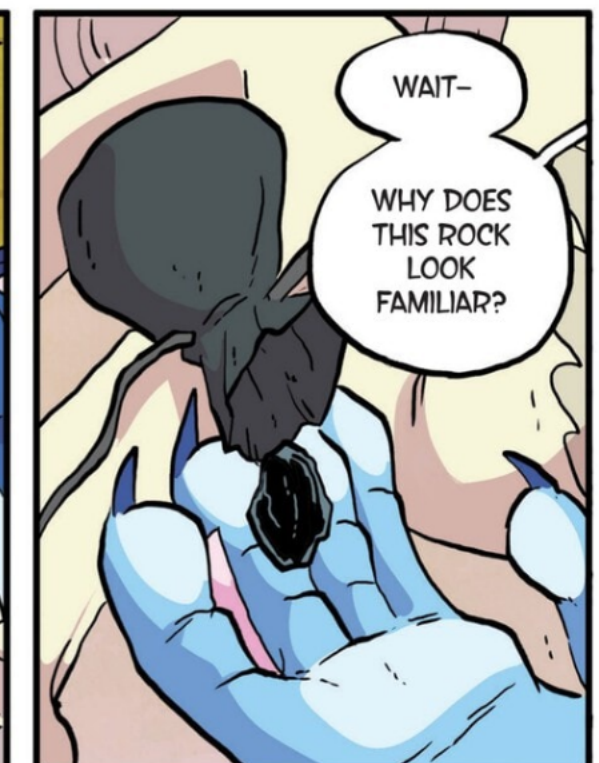


THAT'S TRUE. AND I MEAN, WHAT DOES HE CARE IF I HEAL SOME RANDOM RAINWING, RIGHT? I'LL TELL HIM WHEN WE GET BACK.



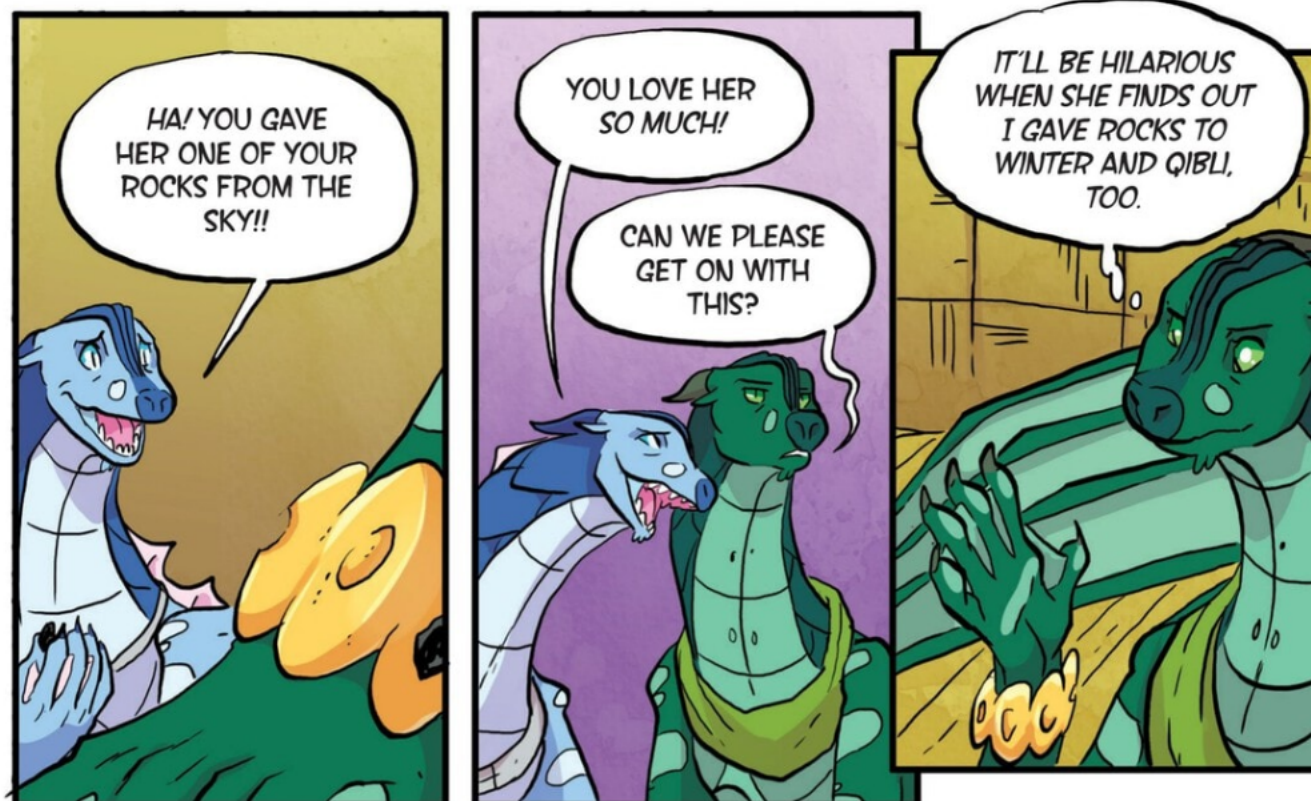
WHAT WILL YOU ENCHANT?

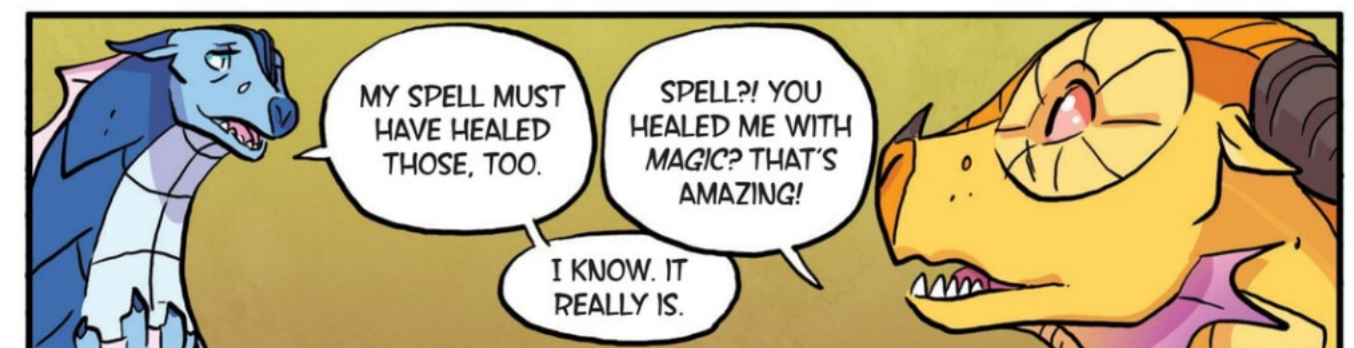
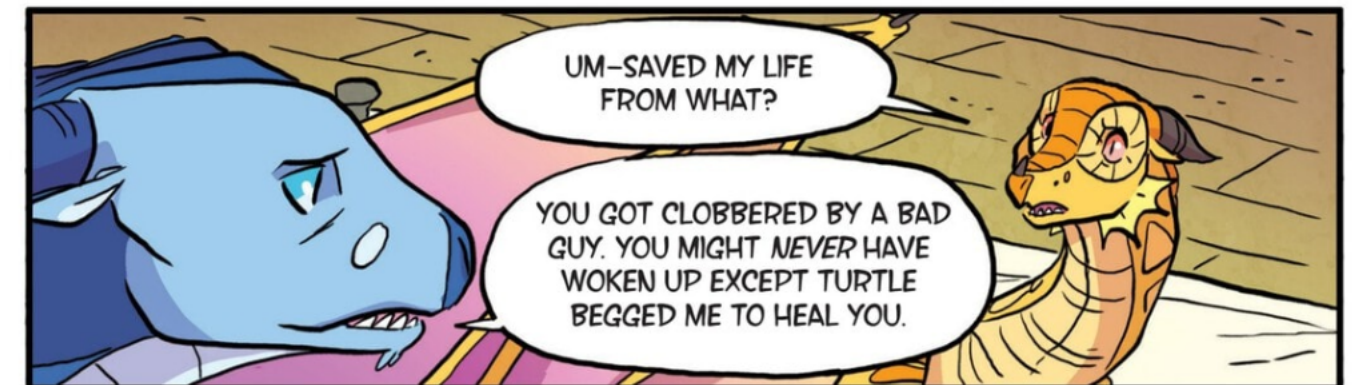
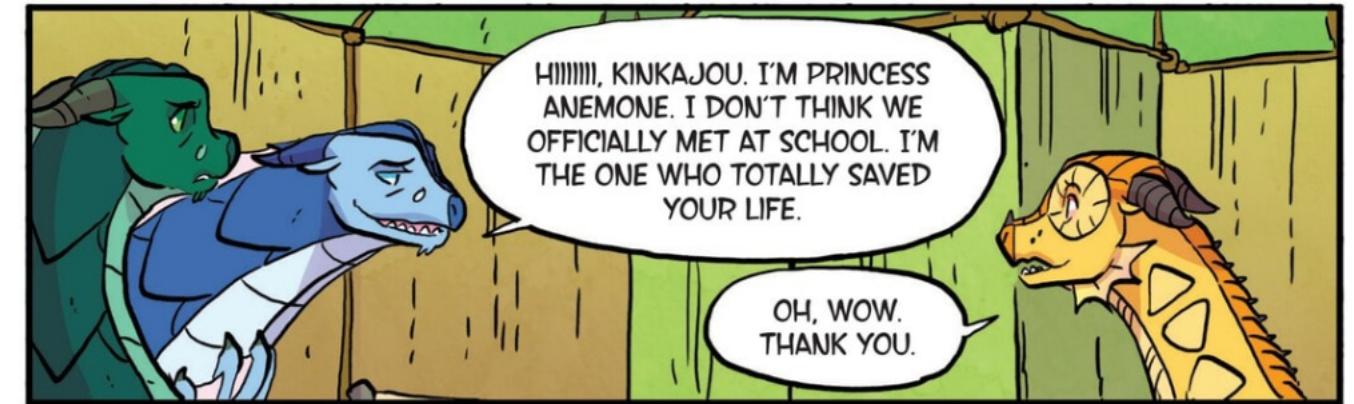
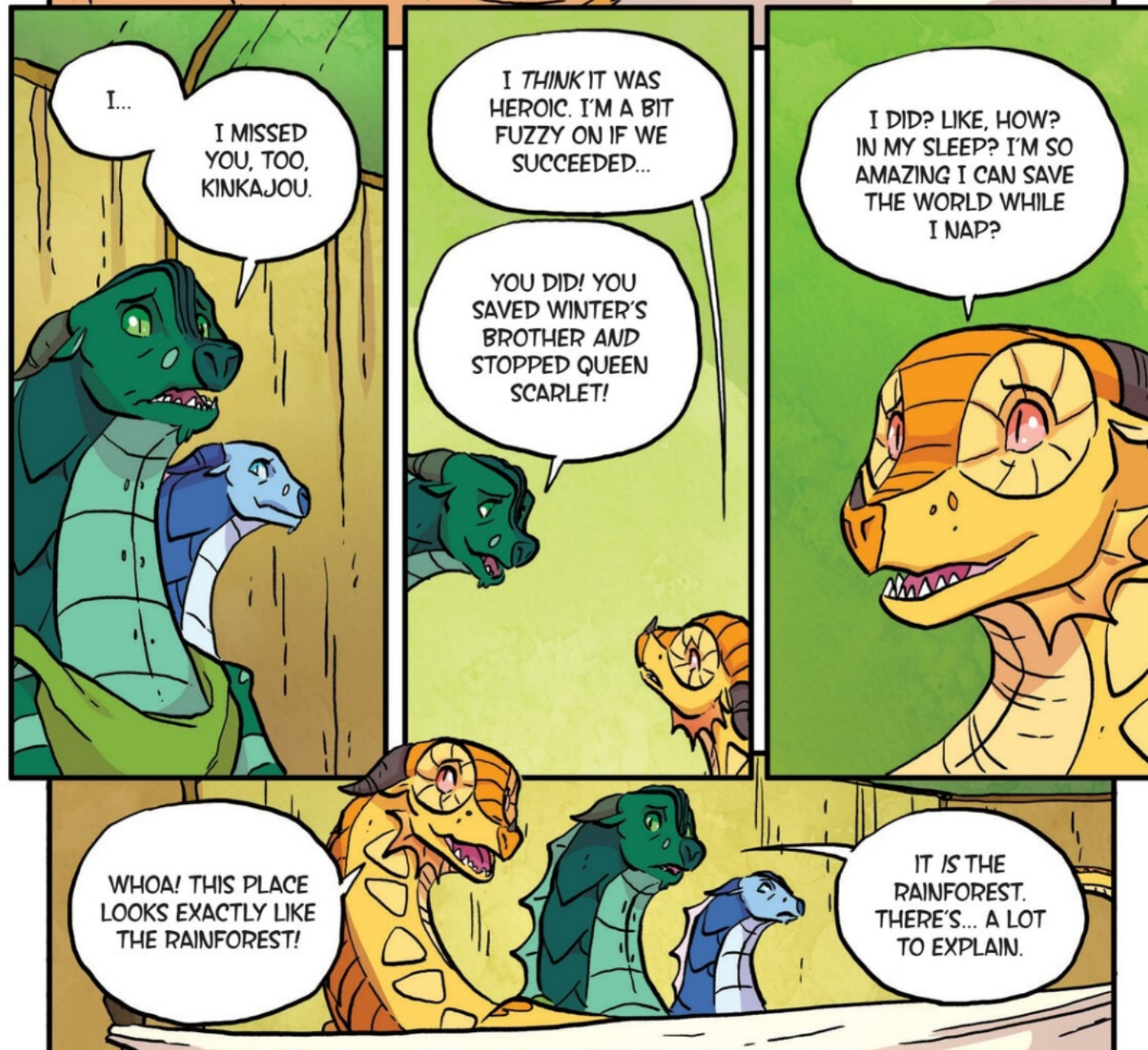
MAYBE SOMETHING IN HERE?



WAIT—

WHY DOES THIS ROCK LOOK FAMILIAR?







DARKSTALKER'S
HERE!

KR-KRR-
KRASH!



DON'T BE SCARED, KINKAJOU. THERE'S
A BIG, SCARY-LOOKING DRAGON
COMING, BUT HE CAN'T HURT YOU. OR
SEE ME. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

OH, WOW, I FEEL LIKE I FELL ASLEEP
IN ONE ADVENTURE AND WOKE UP IN
A DIFFERENT ONE!



UH, SHOULD YOU BE
WALKING YET?

ANEMONE, HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING MORE
MAGIC?

JUST A LITTLE
HEALING SPELL.
KINKAJOU, COME
HERE.



YIKES! WHO
ARE YOU? YOU ARE
SO BIG!

OH, MOON'S
FRIEND. THAT'S
ALL RIGHT. I WAS
PLANNING TO
HEAL YOU MYSELF.

BUT, ANEMONE,
REMEMBER TO RUN YOUR
SPELLS BY ME FIRST.

I DON'T LIKE BEING
BOSSSED AROUND. I KNOW
WHAT I'M DOING.

OF COURSE.
BUT AN
EXPERIENCED
EYE CAN BE
HELPFUL. SO
YOU CAN AVOID
MY MISTAKES.



QUEEN GLORY.

HOW DID YOU
FIND OUR
VILLAGE?

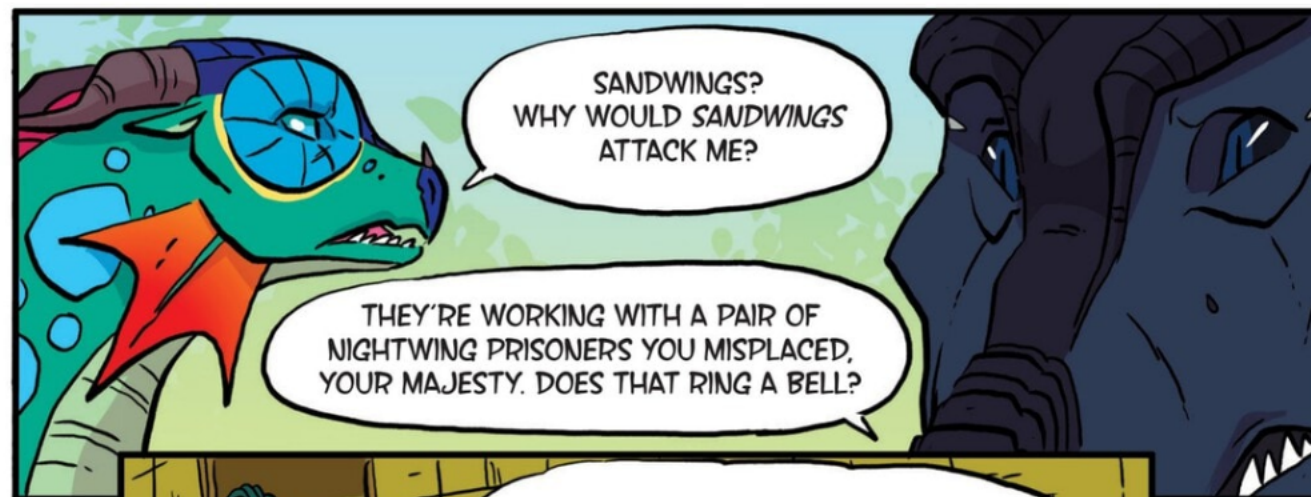
I FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS OF
RAINWINGS THINKING. OR WHAT
PASSES FOR THINKING IN A
RAINWING THESE DAYS. THIS TRIBE
HAS REALLY GONE SOFT.

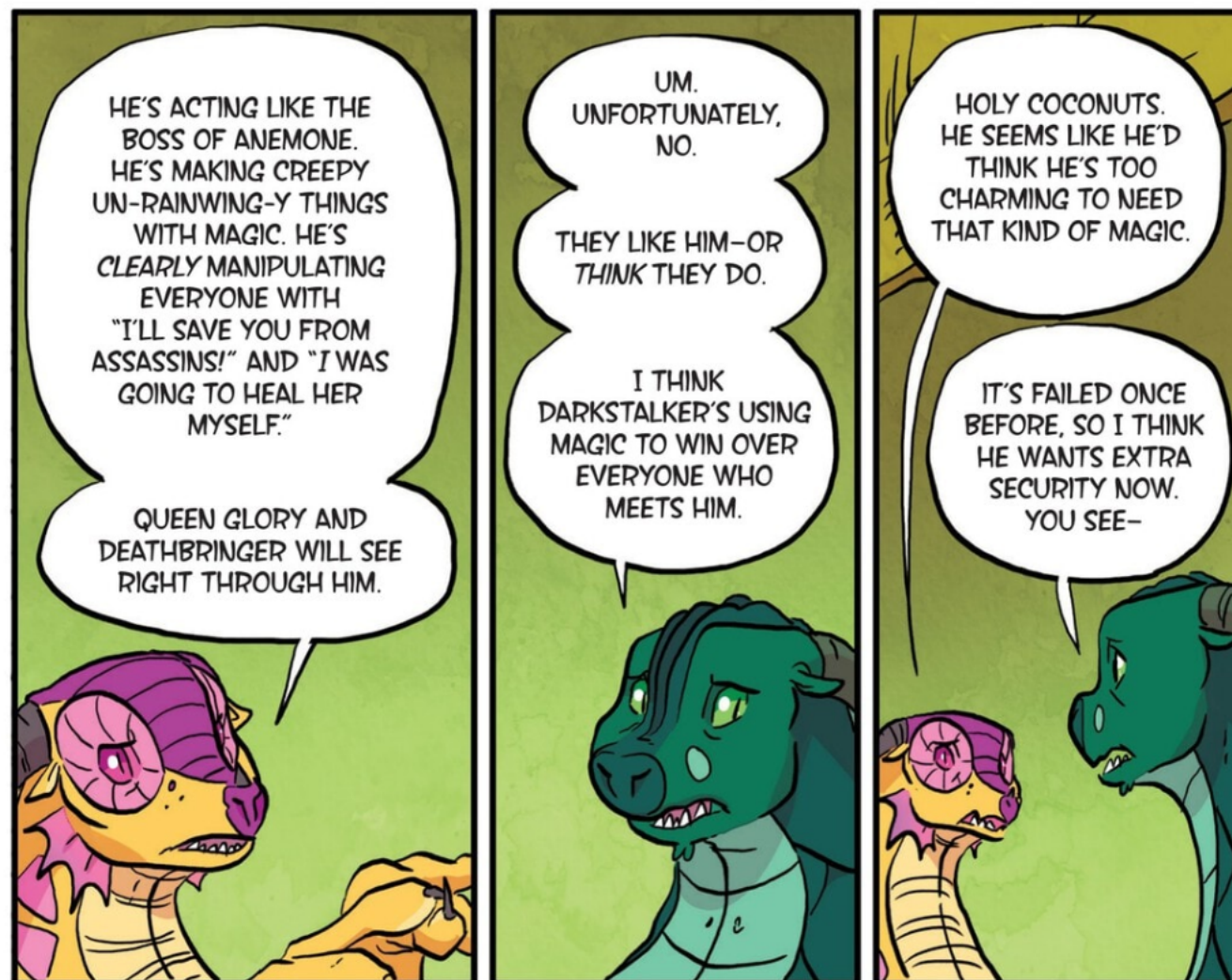


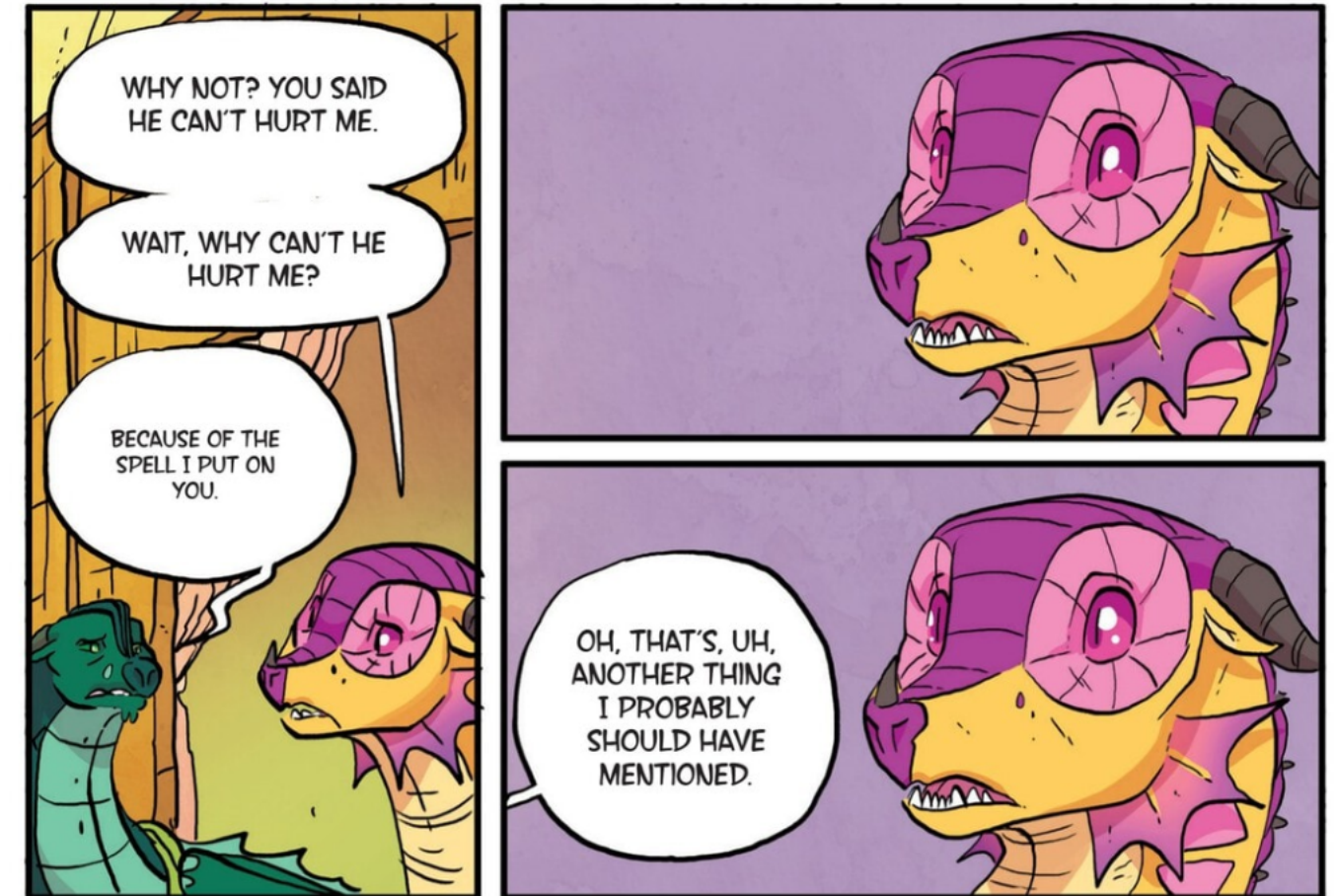
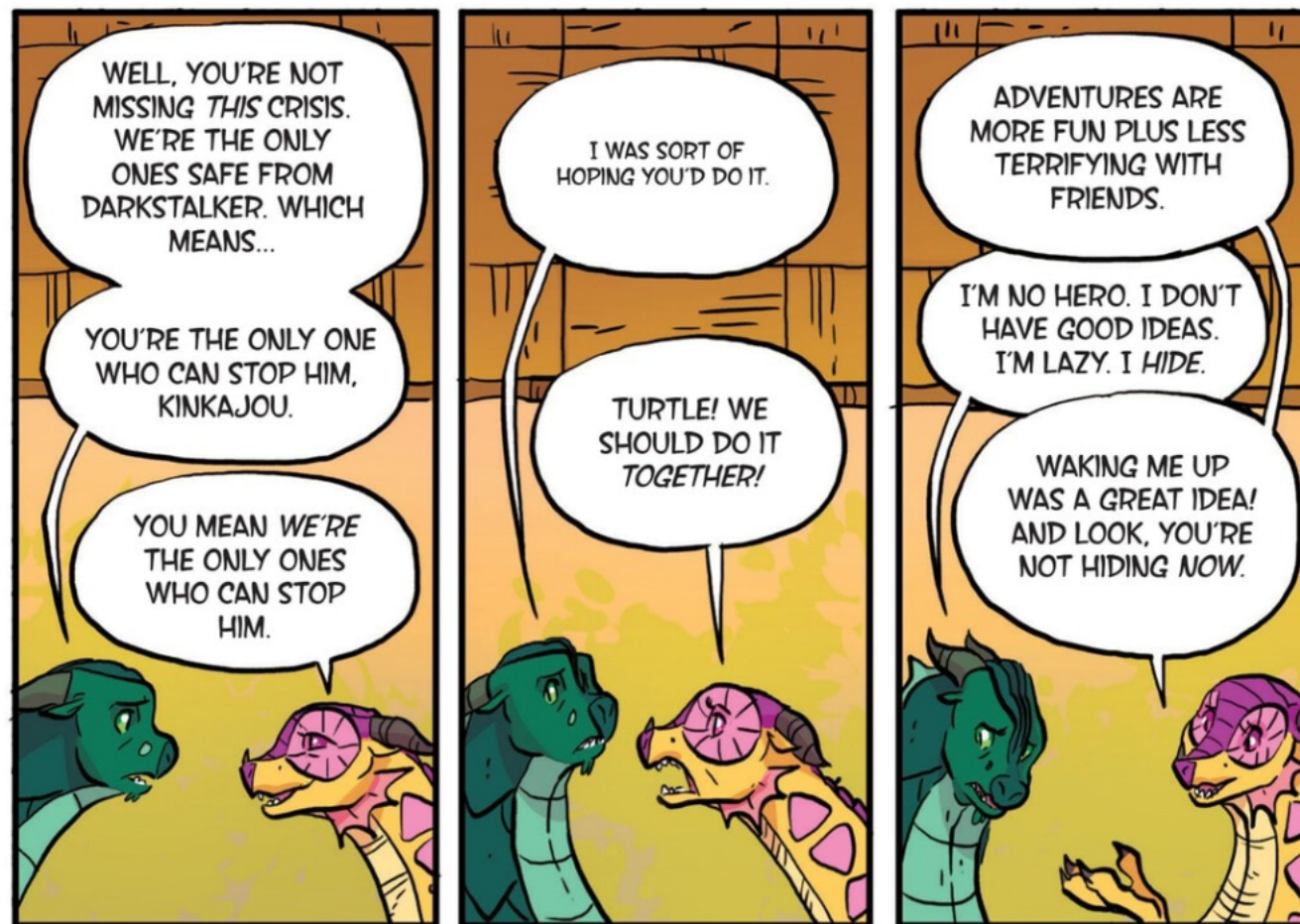
HEY! WE
DEFEATED YOUR
STUPID TRIBE!

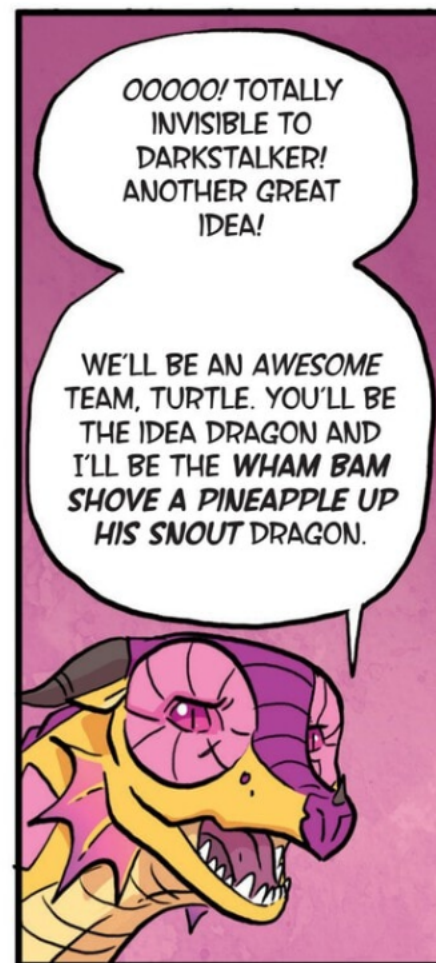


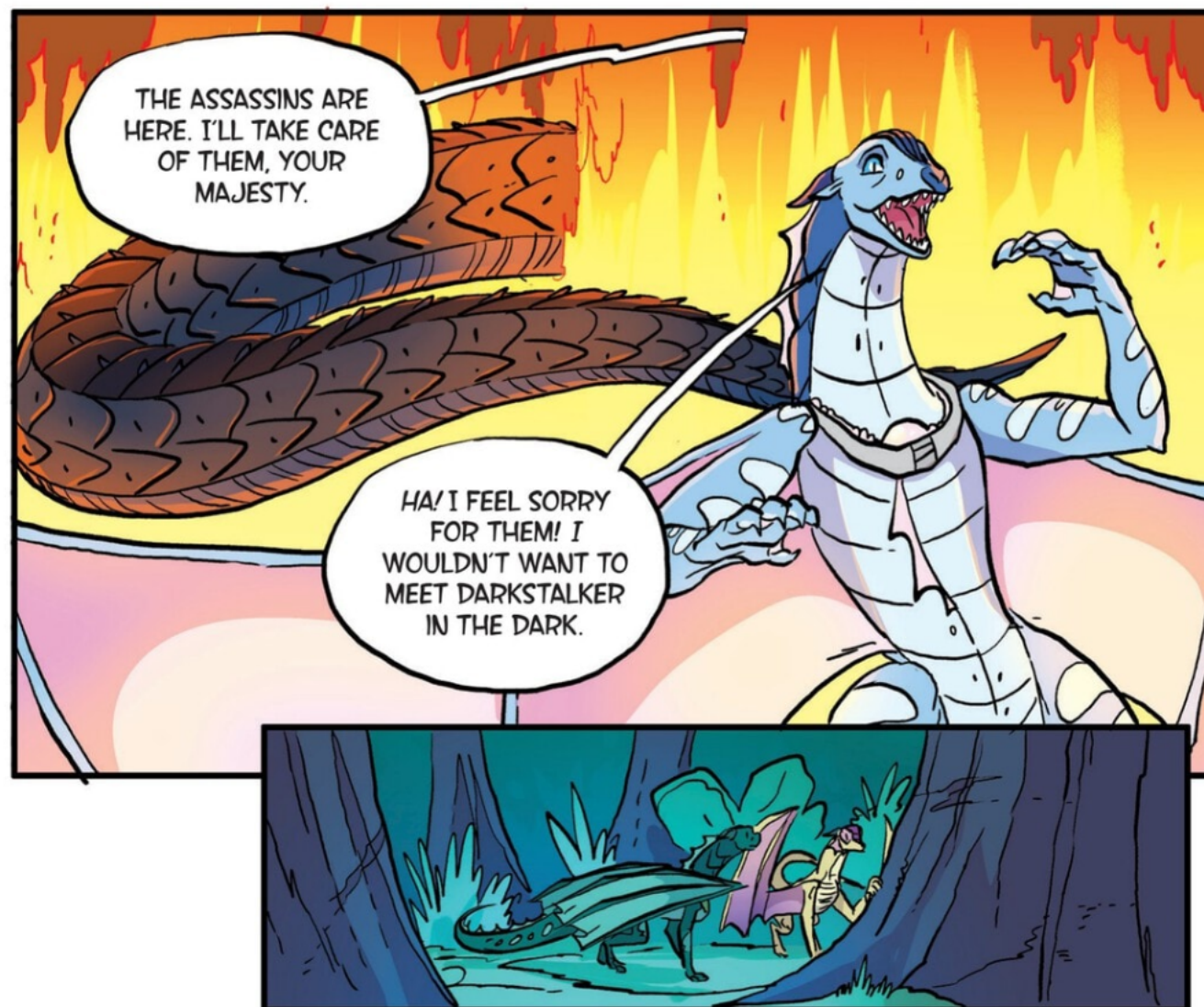
I CAME TO DELIVER A WARNING, YOUR
MAJESTY. FIVE DRAGONS ARE ON THEIR
WAY TO KILL YOU. THEY WILL MOST LIKELY
ATTACK TONIGHT. AND UNLESS I STOP THEM,
THEY WILL SUCCEED.

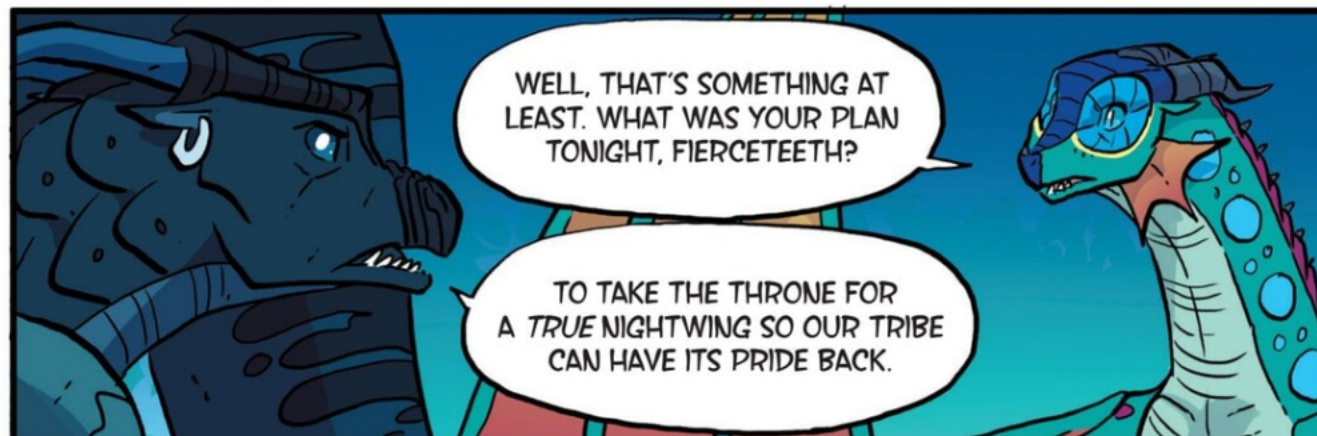




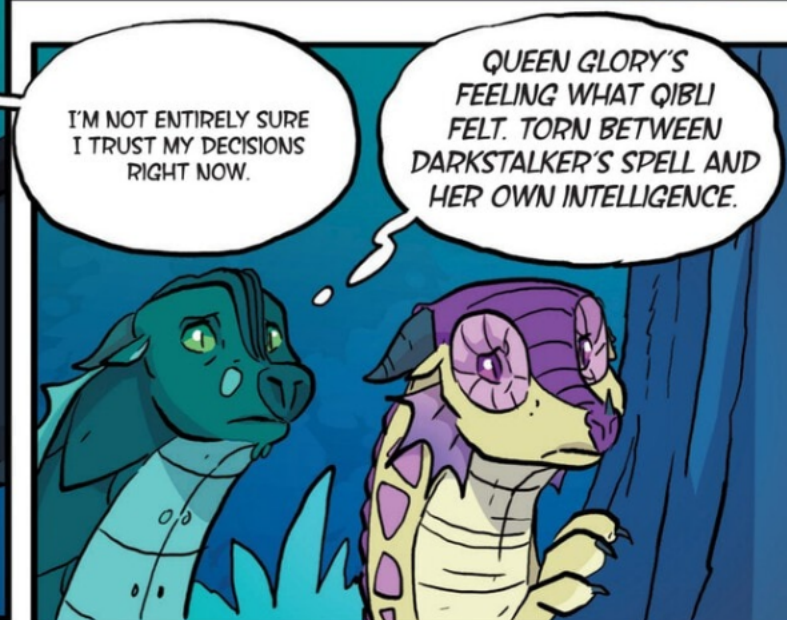














KINKAJOU IS AWAKE
AND FINE. PLEASE
TELL TAMARIN.
DARKSTALKER IS
TAKING NIGHTWINGS TO
OLD NIGHT KINGDOM.
EVERYONE
ENCHANTED
EXCEPT
KINKAJOU.



TIME TO GO TO THE
NIGHTWING VILLAGE
AND FOLLOW
DARKSTALKER
TO THE NIGHT
KINGDOM!

I WISH YOU'D LET
ME TELL GLORY
ABOUT HIM LAST
NIGHT.

YAWN



KINKAJOU, YOU
CAN'T. HE CAN READ
GLORY'S MIND.

SURE, BUT I STILL
DON'T LIKE IT. AT
LEAST I TOLD HER
I'M TOTALLY FINE.
SHE WAS SO MAD
AND SO HAPPY
AND SO MAD AT
THE SAME TIME.



I GOT A SERIOUSLY SERIOUS LECTURE
ABOUT STAYING AWAY FROM DANGEROUS
DRAGONS. LA LA LA IRONY. BUT SHE'LL FORGIVE
ME WHEN WE SAVE THE WORLD! I TOLD HER I
WANT TO GO BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. WHICH IS
TRUE! I'M JUST TAKING A LITTLE DETOUR
ON THE WAY.



DO WE HAVE TO GO
TO THE NIGHT KINGDOM?
CAN'T WE STOP
DARKSTALKER...
FROM HERE?

NO!



I FIGURED IT OUT LAST
NIGHT! THIS IS ALL ABOUT
MOON'S PROPHECY!

DARKSTALKER IS WHAT
"SHAKES THE EARTH"!
SO WE HAVE TO SAVE
JADE MOUNTAIN BY
FINDING "THE LOST CITY
OF NIGHT"! SO WE JUST
FOLLOW DARKSTALKER
AND—

BOOM! CATASTROPHE
AVERTED!



WHY ARE
YOU RUBBING YOUR
FOREHEAD AGAIN?

...NO REASON.

HEROIC QUESTS
ARE NEVER THAT
EASY.



I WONDER HOW MANY NIGHTWINGS ARE GOING WITH HIM.

I BET MOST OF THEM. WOULDN'T YOU FOLLOW A KING WHO COULD GIVE YOU SUPERPOWERS?

NO WAY. QUEEN GLORY IS PERFECT.



KINKAJOU?



KINKAJOU!

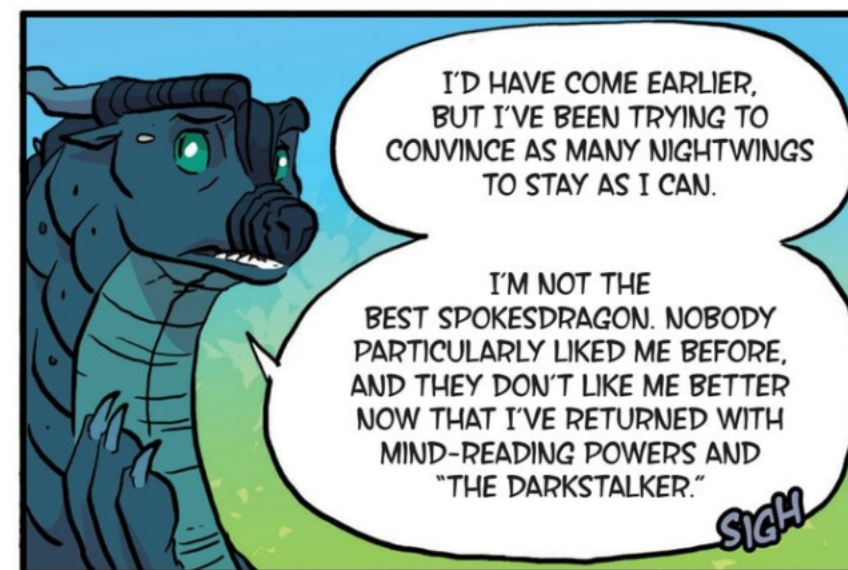


YOU'RE AWAKE! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!

MOON! YOU DID EVERYTHING COOL WITHOUT ME! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE AMAZING THINGS YOU DID! WITHOUT ME!



I WAS GOING TO CHECK ON YOU AFTER DARKSTALKER LEAVES...



I'D HAVE COME EARLIER, BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE AS MANY NIGHTWINGS TO STAY AS I CAN.

I'M NOT THE BEST SPOKESDRAGON. NOBODY PARTICULARLY LIKED ME BEFORE, AND THEY DON'T LIKE ME BETTER NOW THAT I'VE RETURNED WITH MIND-READING POWERS AND "THE DARKSTALKER."

SIGH



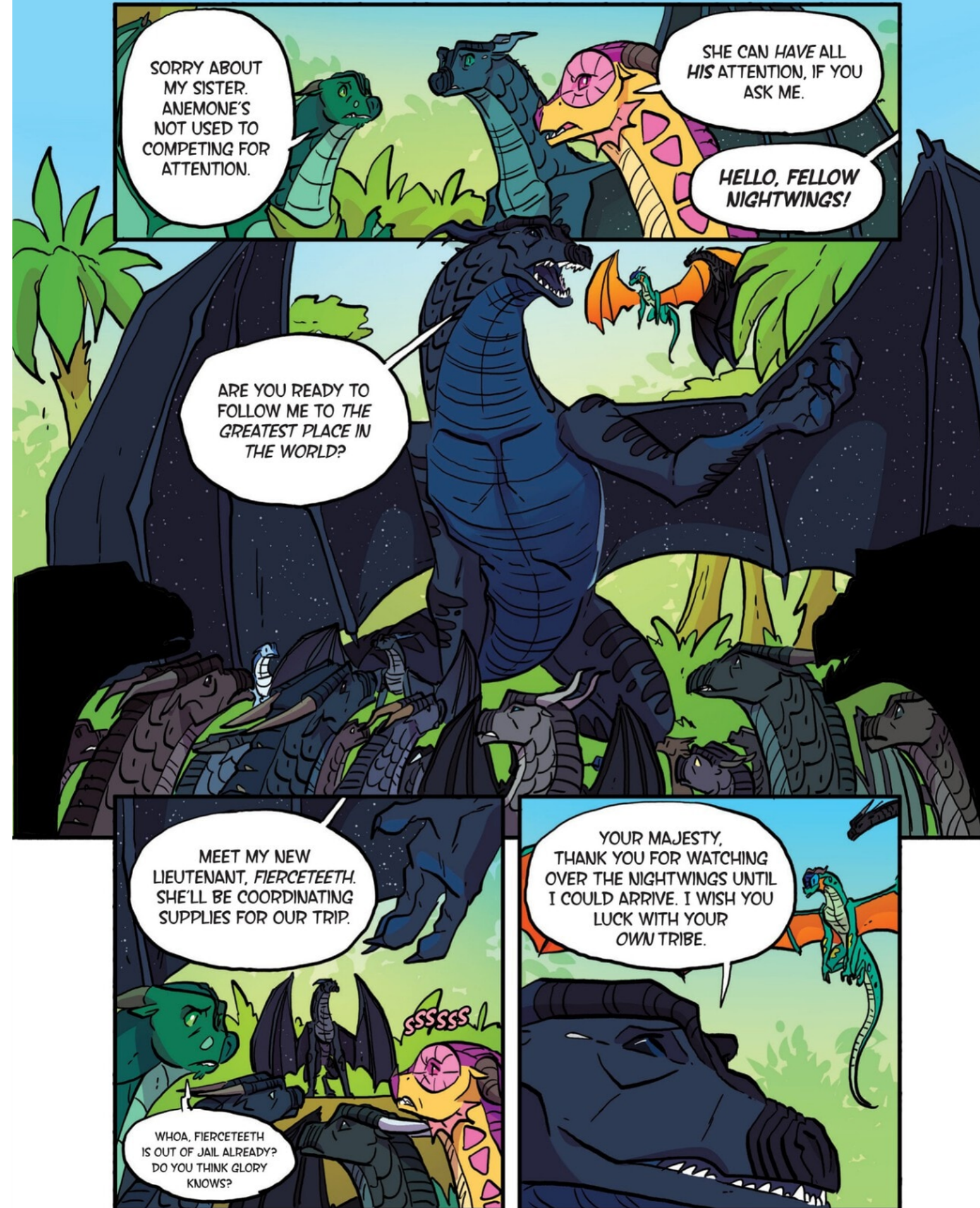
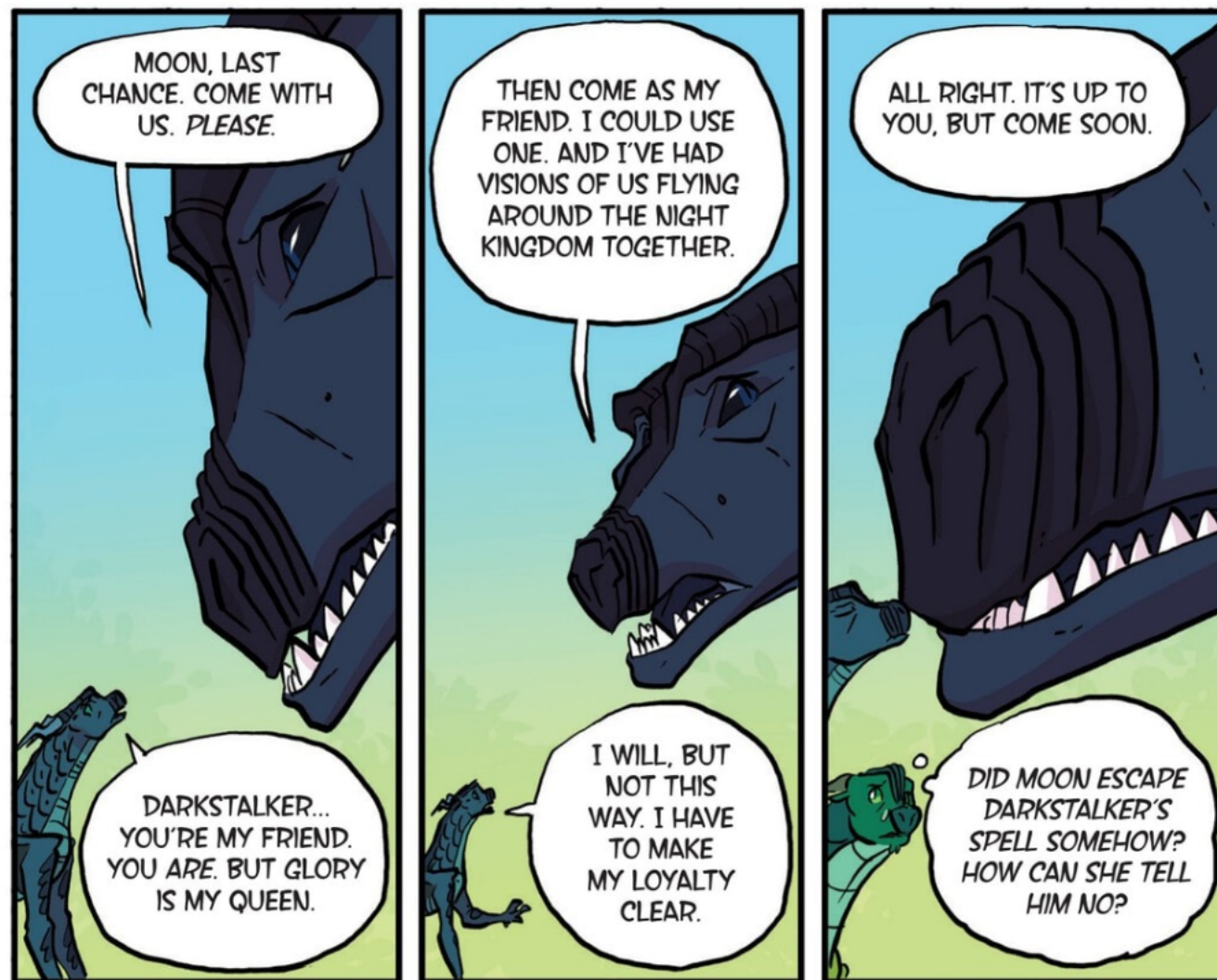
I LIKE YOU ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR TEN THOUSAND GRUMPY DRAGONS!



I THOUGHT YOU LIKED DARKSTALKER.

I DO! HE'S BEEN GREAT SO FAR.





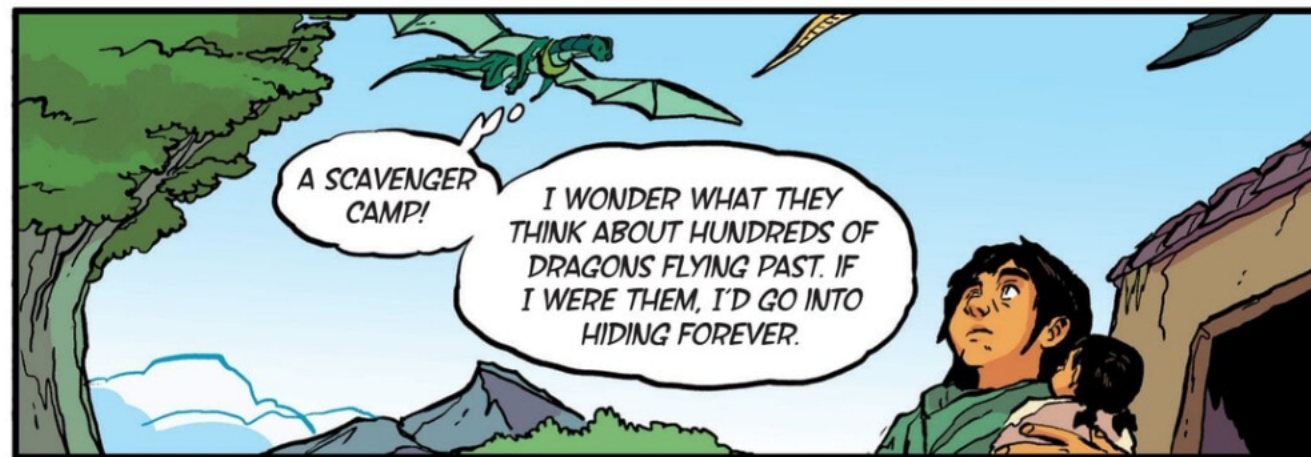




I WONDER IF DARKSTALKER IS STILL GIVING ONE OF HIS LONG WINDBAG SPEECHES WHILE THEY'RE FLYING.

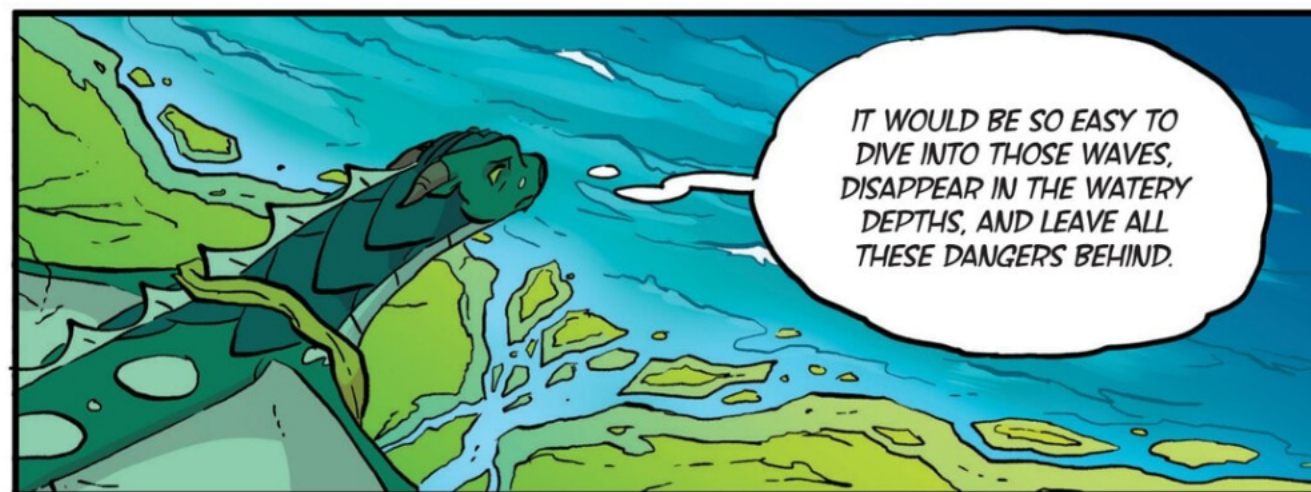
OH, THE NIGHT KINGDOM IS SOOOOO GREAT AND I'M SOOOOOO DEFINITELY NOT EVIL AND IT'S SOOOOOO SMART TO CHOOSE MEEEE OVER THE VERY BEST QUEEN IN PYRRHIA...

BUNCH OF ADDLEPATED WOMBATS!



A SCAVENGER CAMP!

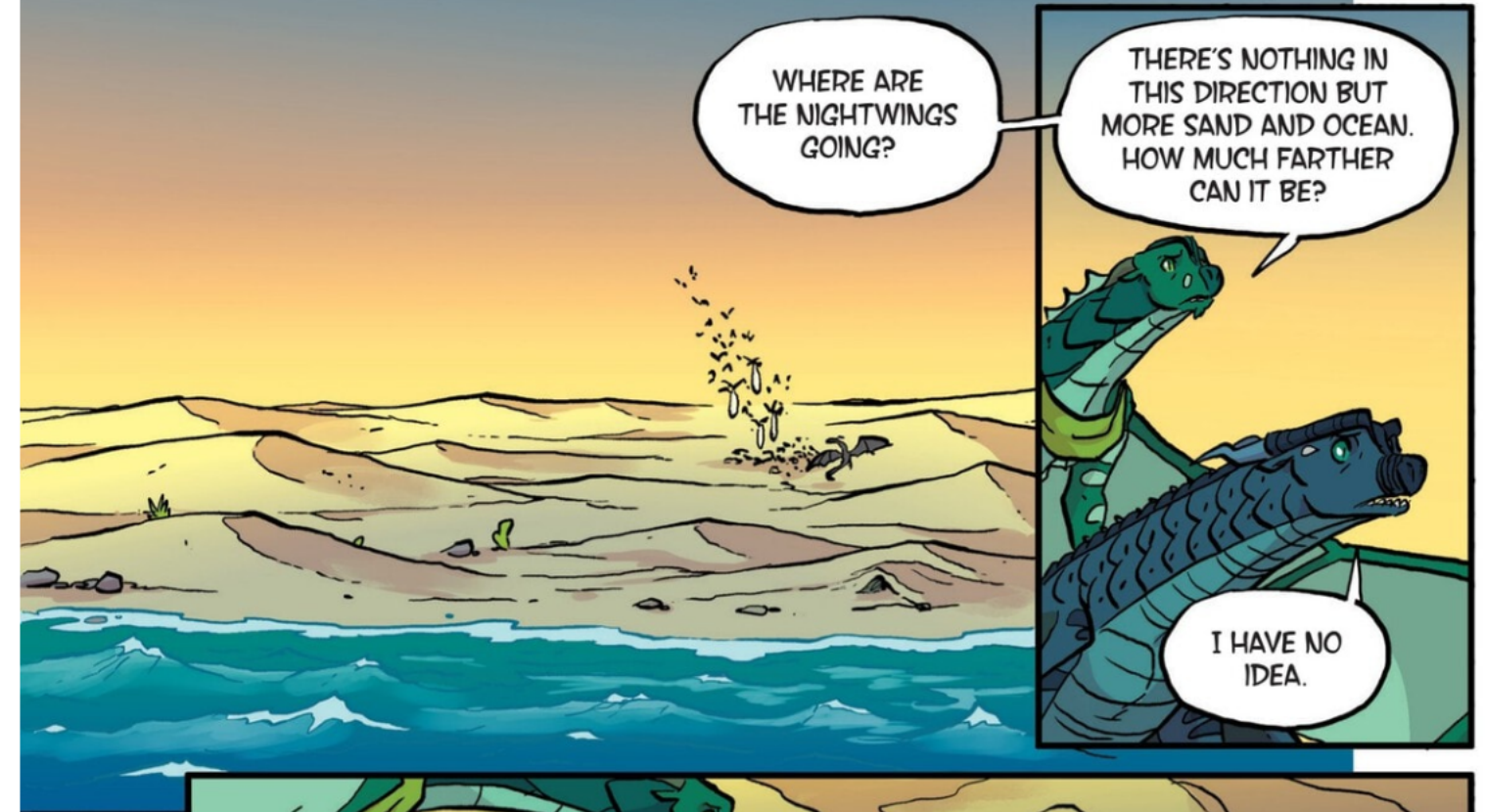
I WONDER WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT HUNDREDS OF DRAGONS FLYING PAST. IF I WERE THEM, I'D GO INTO HIDING FOREVER.



IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO DIVE INTO THOSE WAVES, DISAPPEAR IN THE WATERY DEPTHS, AND LEAVE ALL THESE DANGERS BEHIND.



BUT-I COULDN'T LEAVE KINKAJOU.



WHERE ARE THE NIGHTWINGS GOING?

THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS DIRECTION BUT MORE SAND AND OCEAN. HOW MUCH FARTHER CAN IT BE?

I HAVE NO IDEA.



WE CAN SLEEP IN THIS CAVE. THEY WON'T NOTICE US HERE.

GOOD THINKING, KINKAJOU.



DID I JUST IMAGINE THAT KINKAJOU MANEUVERED TO BE SLEEPING NEXT TO ME?

WHAT IS DARKSTALKER GOING TO DO NEXT?

I CAN'T SLEEP. I'M TOO WORRIED.

SIGH



UH-OH. DARKSTALKER'S HEADING SOMEWHERE BY HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM.

PART THREE: THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT

WHY AM I SO TERRIFIED?
THIS IS NOTHING BUT
SNEAKING AROUND AND
EAVESDROPPING. THE ONE
THING I'M GOOD AT.

OH... I REMEMBER NOW,
THERE'S A SMALL PENINSULA
ON THE MAP OF PYRRHIA,
BY THE KINGDOM OF
SAND.

Kingdom of Sand

HAS NOBODY
CROSSED THESE
MOUNTAINS IN
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS?

OW!

WHAT WAS
THAT? FELT LIKE AN
ELECTRIC EEL. ARE
THOSE BONES DOWN
THERE?

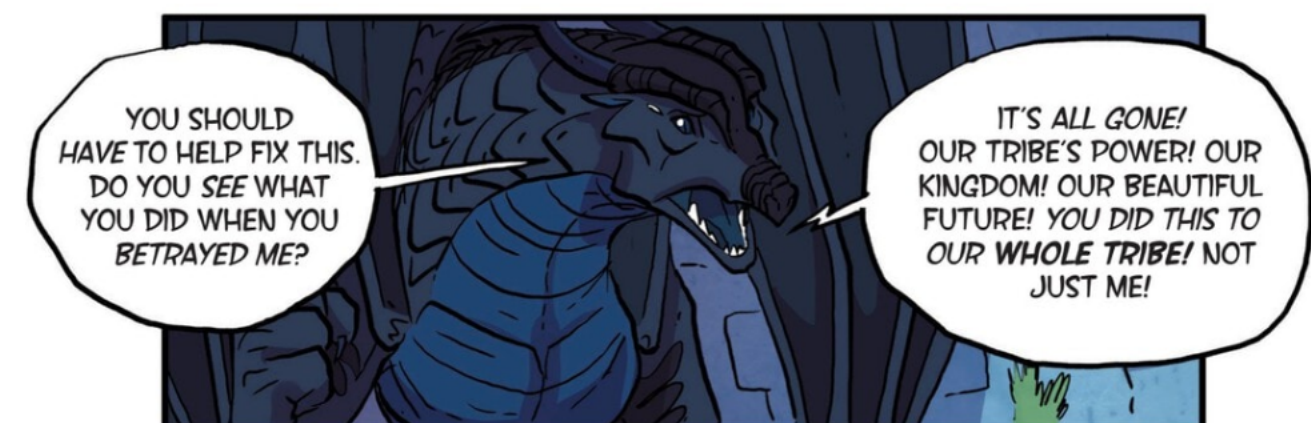
THE
NIGHTWING
CITY!

EVERYTHING'S
IN RUINS...













YOU CAME! ISN'T IT AMAZING? LOOK AT OUR BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM!

OH, WOW.

THAT'S THE GREAT DIAMOND. THERE'S THE MUSEUM, THE SCHOOL—OOOH, THE LIBRARY! THERE WERE GRAND PARTIES EVERY OTHER NIGHT. AND THINGS YOU'D ACTUALLY LIKE, TOO, MOON-SALONS AND SCIENTIFIC LECTURES AND READINGS.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING! I WAS HOPING MY VISIONS WERE RIGHT AND YOU'D COME.



WE'RE HERE! THE LOST CITY OF NIGHT! SO DID IT WORK? DOES THE WORLD FEEL SAVED TO YOU, TURTLE?

NOT EVEN REMOTELY.

THAAAAAT'S THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.



LET ME GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THE PALACE!

I'D LIKE THAT, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M GOING BACK TO JADE MOUNTAIN. I JUST WANTED TO SEE THIS.

IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK, THAT'S FINE, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND *OUR* SCHOOL IS MUCH BETTER. AFTER ALL, IT'S WHERE I WENT.

BUT... WOULD YOUR SCHOOL ONLY BE FOR NIGHTWINGS?

YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED AT JADE MOUNTAIN. YOU CAN'T JUST HOPE DRAGONS FROM DIFFERENT TRIBES WILL GET ALONG. THEY WON'T—THEY CAN'T.

I DO!

SO DO I.



MAYBE ONE DAY YOU CAN ORGANIZE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. BUT FOR NOW, WE MUST FOCUS ON *OUR* DRAGONETS. WE HAVE A TRIBE TO REBUILD!



DARKSTALKER PAYS NO ATTENTION TO ME AT ALL! IT'S LIKE I'M NOT EVEN THERE!

THAT'S GOOD, KINKAJOU. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU.



THESE WERE THE
QUEEN'S ROOMS.
MINE NOW, OF
COURSE.

SHE MUST HAVE
TAKEN MOST OF THE
TREASURE WITH HER.
THIS ROOM USED TO
BE SO CLEAN AND
PERFECT...



DARKSTALKER!
I COULDN'T FIND THE
ROOMS YOU WERE
TALKING ABOUT.



TURTLE?



I THOUGHT YOU WERE
GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.
STOP FOLLOWING ME!

HE'S NOT FOLLOWING
YOU, ANEMONE. HE'S
WITH ME.



OHhhh. AWWW.
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
YOU GUYS ARE SO, SO
CUTE.

YOU'RE
WELCOME.



WAIT, MOON'S
HERE, TOO?

DO YOU JUST
KEEP CHANGING
LOYALTIES? HE
DOESN'T NEED YOU.
HE HAS ME.



WHAT IS IT,
ANEMONE?

YOU SAID
THERE WAS
A PERFECT
SUITE FOR ME,
REMEMBER?
BUT ALL THE
HALLWAYS LOOK
THE SAME.

OH DEAR. I'M
SO SORRY FOR
STRAINING YOUR TINY
SEAWING BRAIN.



COME ON. I'LL
JUST SHOW YOU.

ANEMONE
DOESN'T EVEN SEEM
OFFENDED. IT'S LIKE
SHE DIDN'T NOTICE
THE INSULT.



OUR PALACE HAS
A LOT MORE ARTWORK
AND TREASURE. JEWELS
EVERYWHERE.

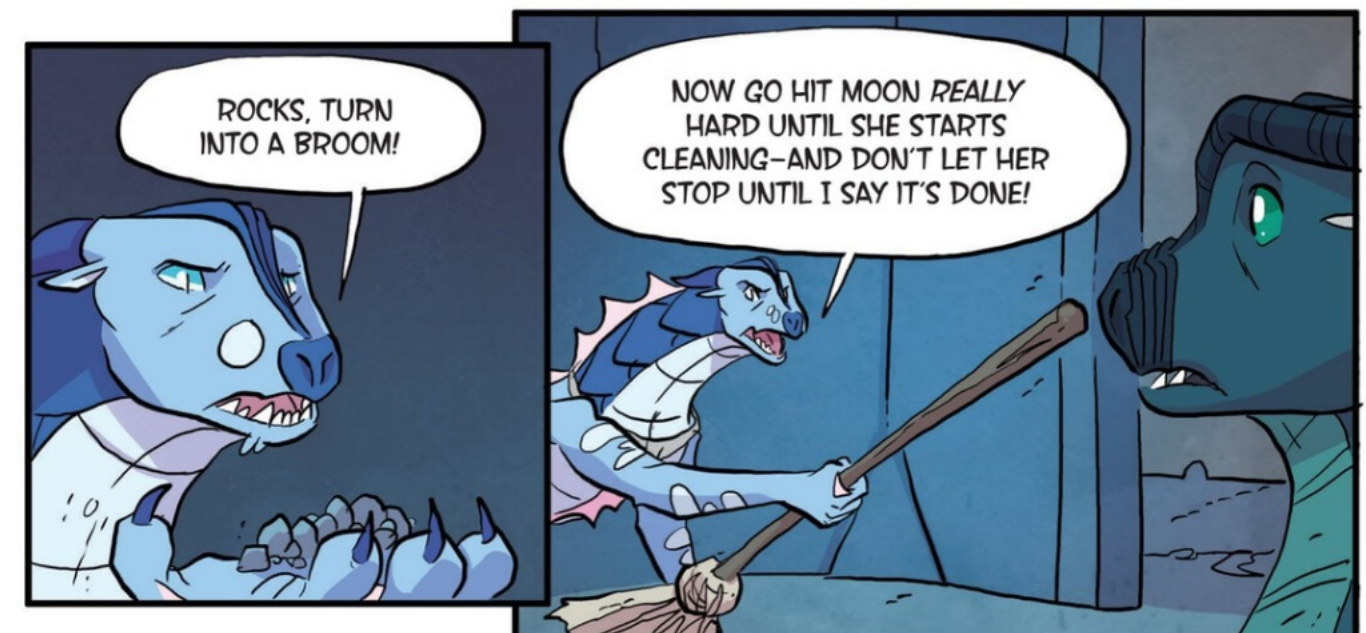
THERE USED TO BE ARTWORK
AND TREASURE HERE. I'M
SURPRISED THE QUEEN WAS
ABLE TO TAKE SO MUCH.



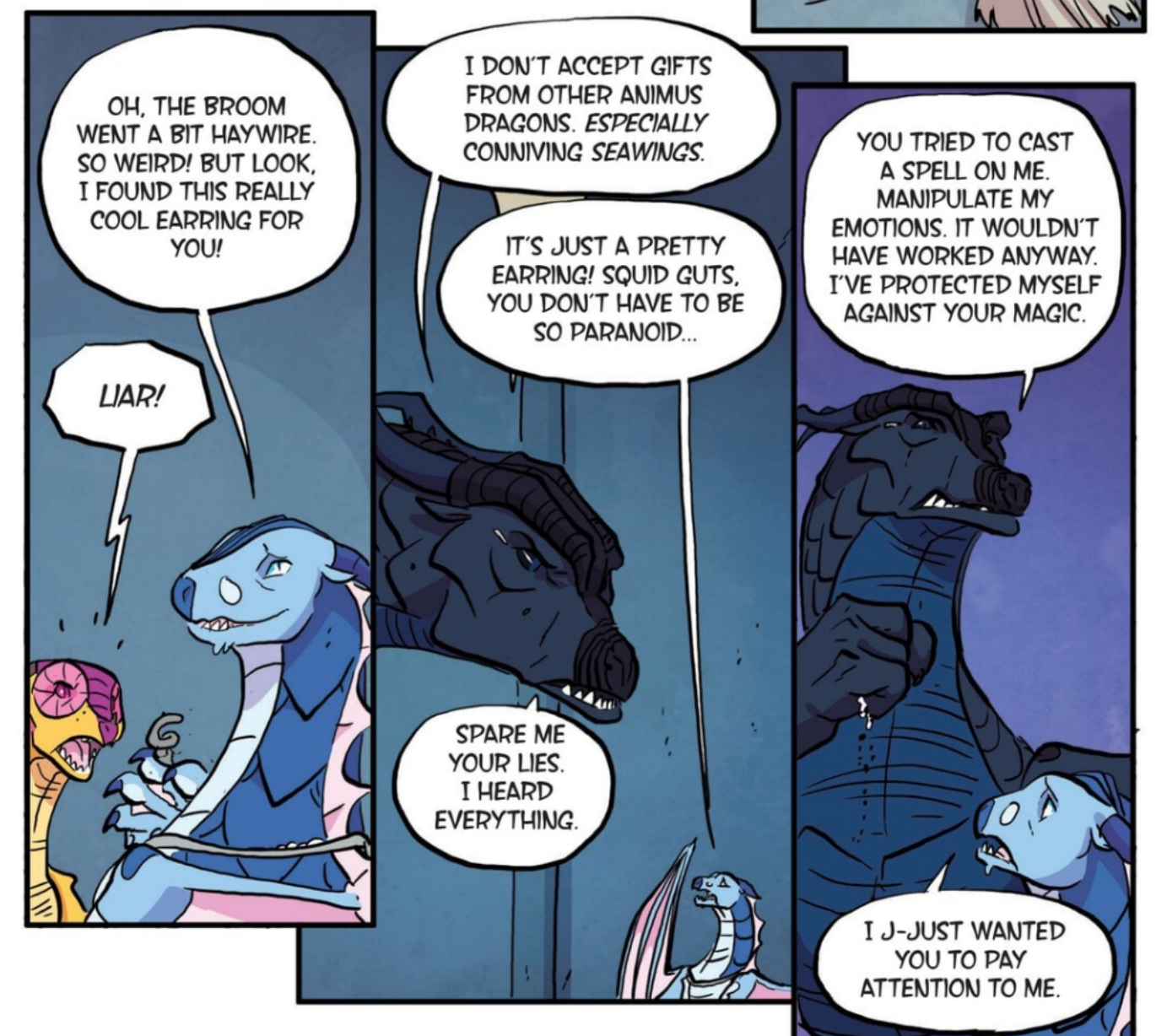
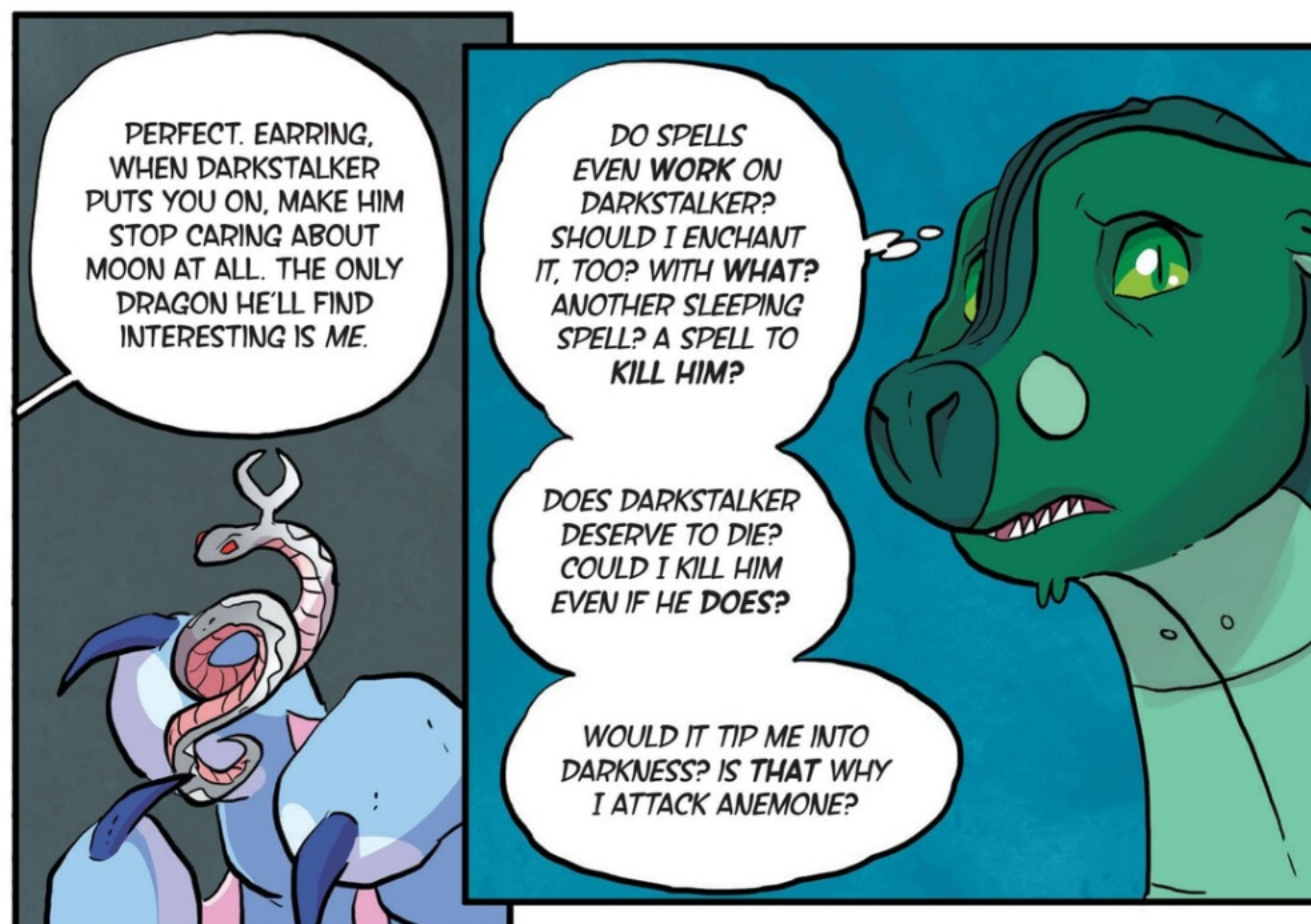
UNLESS THE PALACE
WAS LOOTED BY
ANOTHER TRIBE.
MOON, WHICH QUEENS
ARE THE WEALTHIEST?

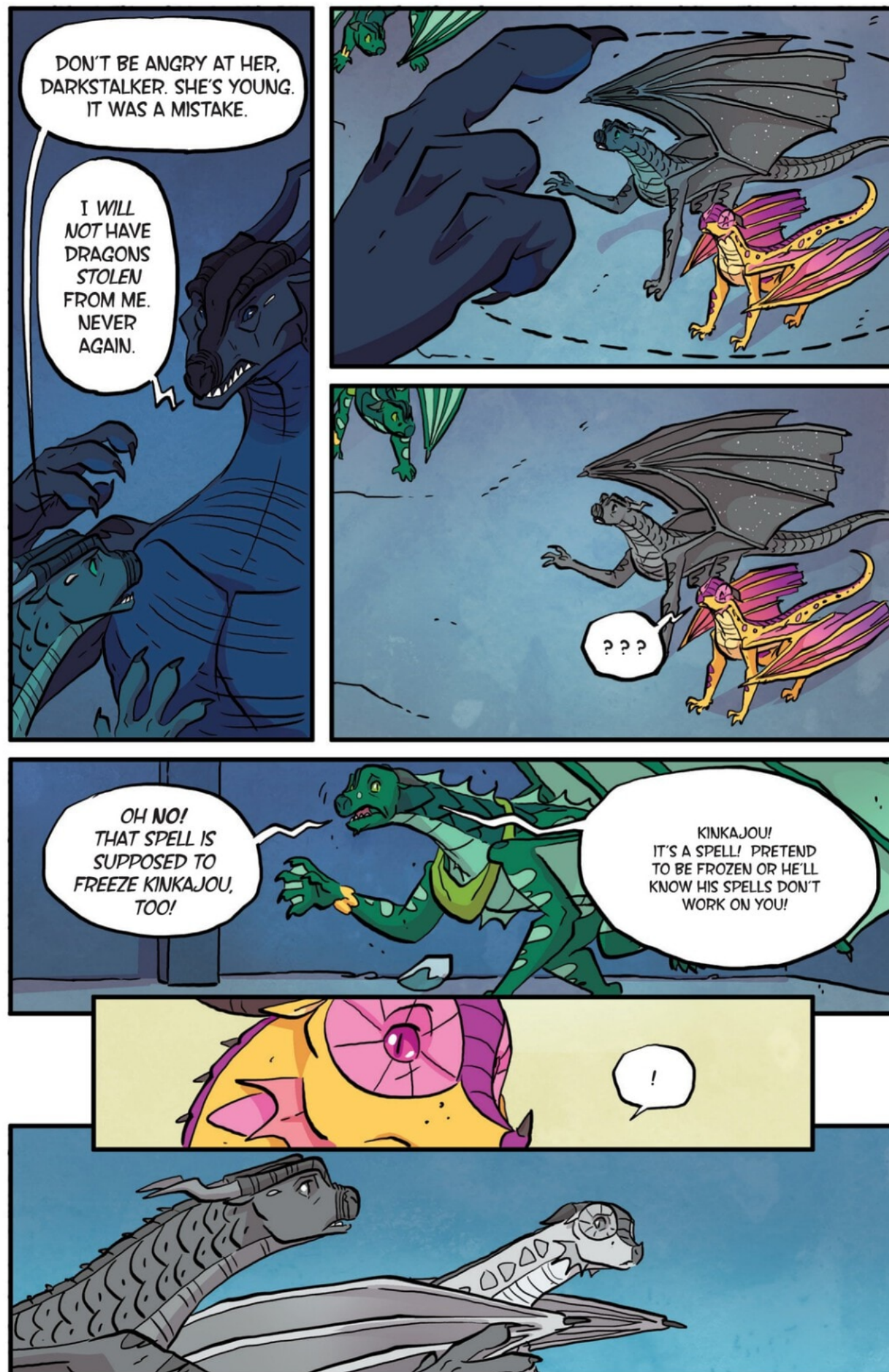
UM... BEFORE THE
WAR, THE SANDWING
TREASURY WAS
SUPPOSEDLY HUGE.

SANDWINGS... THEY
HAD BARELY ANY
TREASURE IN MY TIME.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN
THEM.











THIS ISN'T FAIR! IT'S NOT FAIR!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW SPECIAL AND
IMPORTANT I AM!

OH, ANEMONE.
THIS IS MY FAULT.



NOW, MOON,
LET'S GO SEE THE
GARDENS.

BUT... ARE YOU HAVING
A VISION, DARKSTALKER?
NOTHING CLEAR IS
COMING THROUGH, BUT
I THINK—I THINK THERE'S
DANGER IN THE KINGDOM
OF THE SEA.



SHOULDN'T
WE FOLLOW
ANEMONE?

WE'RE THE LAST DRAGONS SHE WANTS
TO SEE. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE'LL GET
TIRED AND STOP AT JADE MOUNTAIN, SAFE
AND HARMLESS. I THINK THAT'S THE MOST
LIKELY FUTURE.

IS THAT A LIE? DID HE
ENCHANT HER TO GO KILL
MOTHER?



KINKAJOU, STAY
AND WATCH
DARKSTALKER.
I HAVE TO GO
AFTER ANEMONE.



WHAT IF DARKSTALKER
NOTICES THERE'S A
SPELL ON KINKAJOU
WHILE I'M GONE?

AM I REALLY
GOING TO TRY TO
SAVE ANEMONE BY
MYSELF?

WHAT CHOICE
DO I HAVE?



IF DARKSTALKER ENCHANTED
ANEMONE, THERE'S NO WAY I
CAN STOP HER. THERE'S ALMOST
NO CHANCE I CAN STOP HER
ANYWAY. BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN EVEN TRY.



KILLING MOTHER IS ONE
THING—EVERY PRINCESS
KNOWS SHE MIGHT HAVE
TO DO THAT.

BUT WOULD ANEMONE REALLY
KILL ME? OUR BROTHERS? OUR
AUNTS, UNCLES, COUSINS?

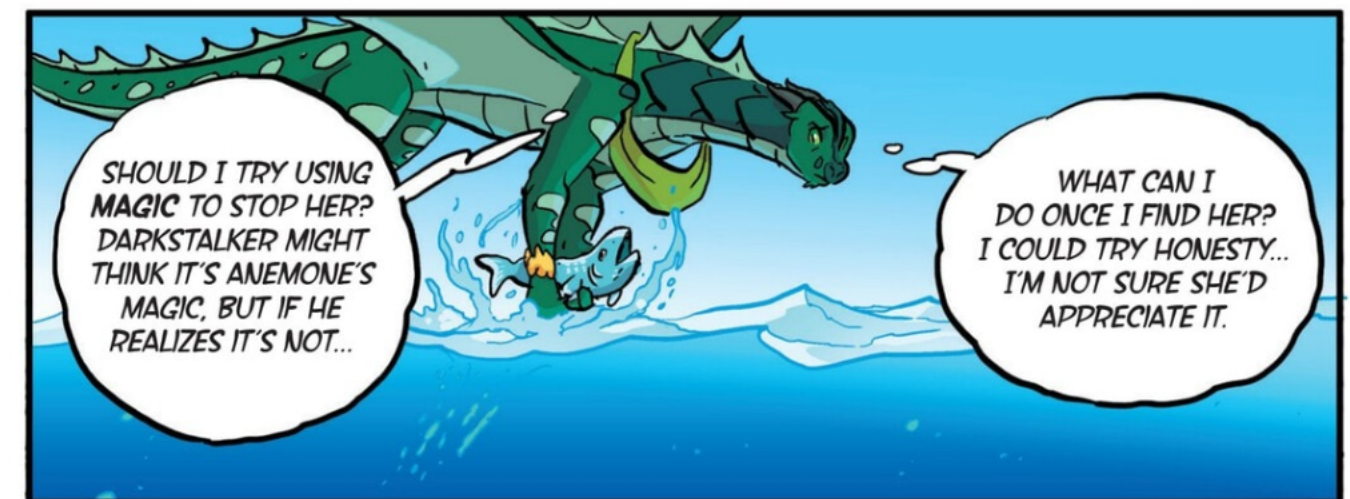
OUR LITTLE SISTER
AUKLET... WHAT
IF DARKSTALKER
ENCHANTED ANEMONE
TO KILL **EVERYONE**?



I ALMOST HIT
THAT BOULDER!

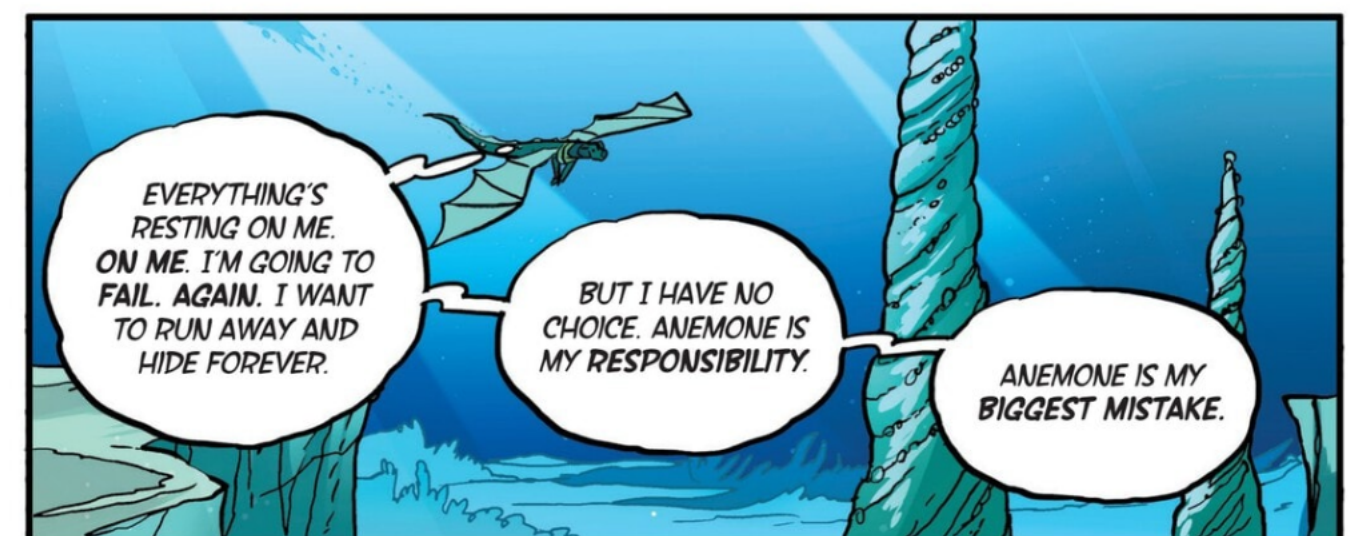
CAREFUL,
CAREFUL... MUSTN'T
DIE BEFORE I GET
THERE.

ALTHOUGH
I MIGHT DIE
WHEN I GET
THERE.



SHOULD I TRY USING
MAGIC TO STOP HER?
DARKSTALKER MIGHT
THINK IT'S ANEMONE'S
MAGIC, BUT IF HE
REALIZES IT'S NOT...

WHAT CAN I
DO ONCE I FIND HER?
I COULD TRY HONESTY...
I'M NOT SURE SHE'D
APPRECIATE IT.



EVERYTHING'S
RESTING ON ME.
ON ME. I'M GOING TO
FAIL. AGAIN. I WANT
TO RUN AWAY AND
HIDE FOREVER.

BUT I HAVE NO
CHOICE. ANEMONE IS
MY RESPONSIBILITY.

ANEMONE IS MY
BIGGEST MISTAKE.



ONCE A YEAR, IN THE KINGDOM OF THE SEA, EVERY TWO-YEAR-OLD DRAGONET IS BROUGHT TO THE ANCIENT RUINS OF THE ISLAND PALACE FOR THE TALONS OF POWER CEREMONY.

THEY CALL IT A CEREMONY, BUT ANY YOUNG DRAGON WHO'S BEEN PAYING ATTENTION KNOWS WHAT IT REALLY IS: A TEST FOR ANIMUS POWER.

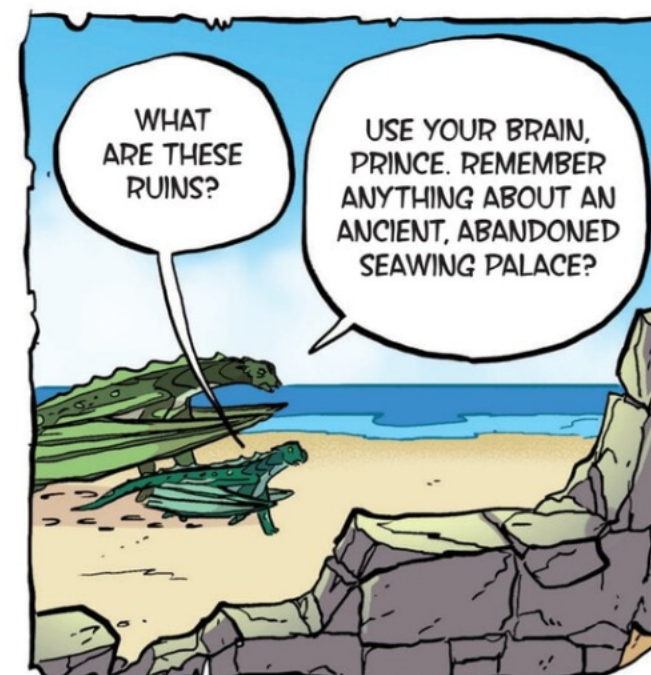
THE YEAR HE WAS TWO, TURTLE FORCED HIMSELF TO EAT ROTTING FISH BEFORE THE CEREMONY SO THAT HE'D BE TOO HORRIFICALLY ILL TO ATTEND.

THE NEXT YEAR, AFTER TURTLE'S FATHER, KING GILL, WAS CAPTURED, THE CEREMONY WAS CANCELED.

BY THE TIME HE WAS FOUR, TURTLE THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM. BUT HE WAS WRONG. WHIRLPOOL ESCORTED HIM PERSONALLY TO THE CEREMONY, LEAVING TURTLE WITH JUST ONE QUESTION:

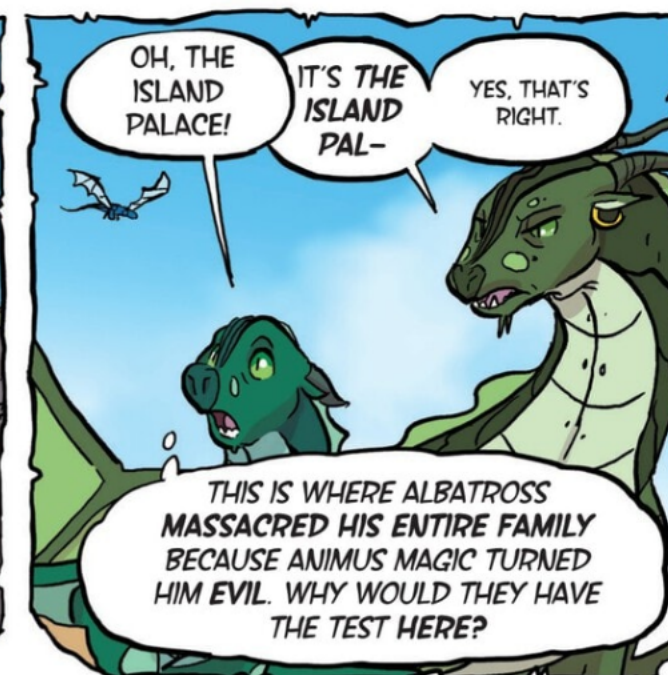
HOW COULD HE FOOL THE TEST?

I CAN'T LET THEM FIND OUT ABOUT ME!



WHAT ARE THESE RUINS?

USE YOUR BRAIN, PRINCE. REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT AN ANCIENT, ABANDONED SEAWING PALACE?



OH, THE ISLAND PALACE!

IT'S THE ISLAND PAL-

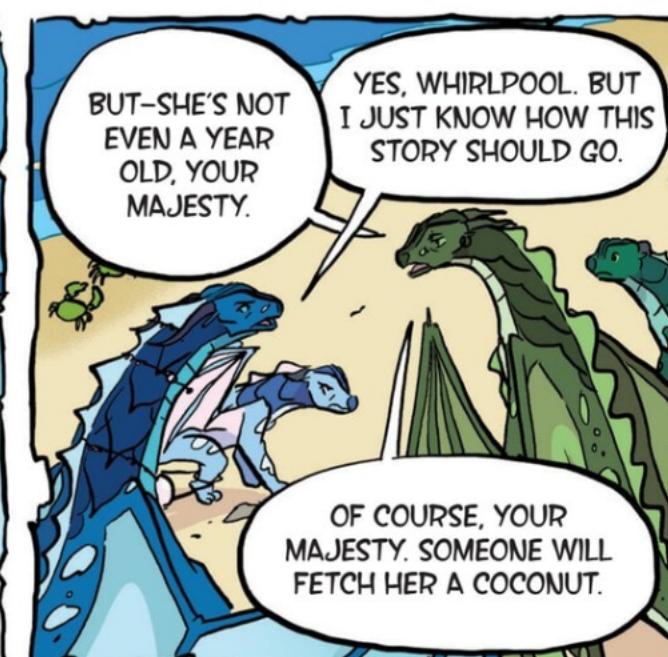
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS IS WHERE ALBATROSS MASSACRED HIS ENTIRE FAMILY BECAUSE ANIMUS MAGIC TURNED HIM EVIL. WHY WOULD THEY HAVE THE TEST HERE?



CAREFUL, DARLING ANEMONE! DON'T GET TANGLED IN YOUR HARNESS.

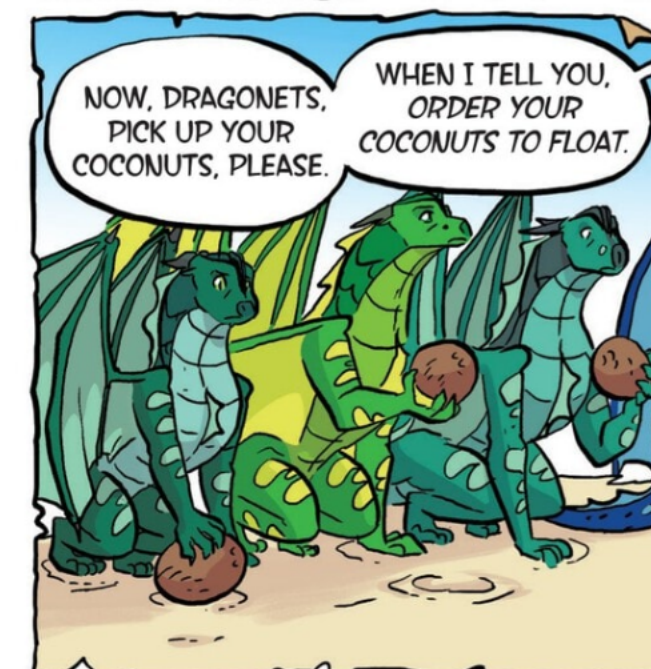
WHIRLPOOL! I WANT PRINCESS ANEMONE TESTED TODAY.



BUT-SHE'S NOT EVEN A YEAR OLD, YOUR MAJESTY.

YES, WHIRLPOOL. BUT I JUST KNOW HOW THIS STORY SHOULD GO.

OF COURSE, YOUR MAJESTY. SOMEONE WILL FETCH HER A COCONUT.

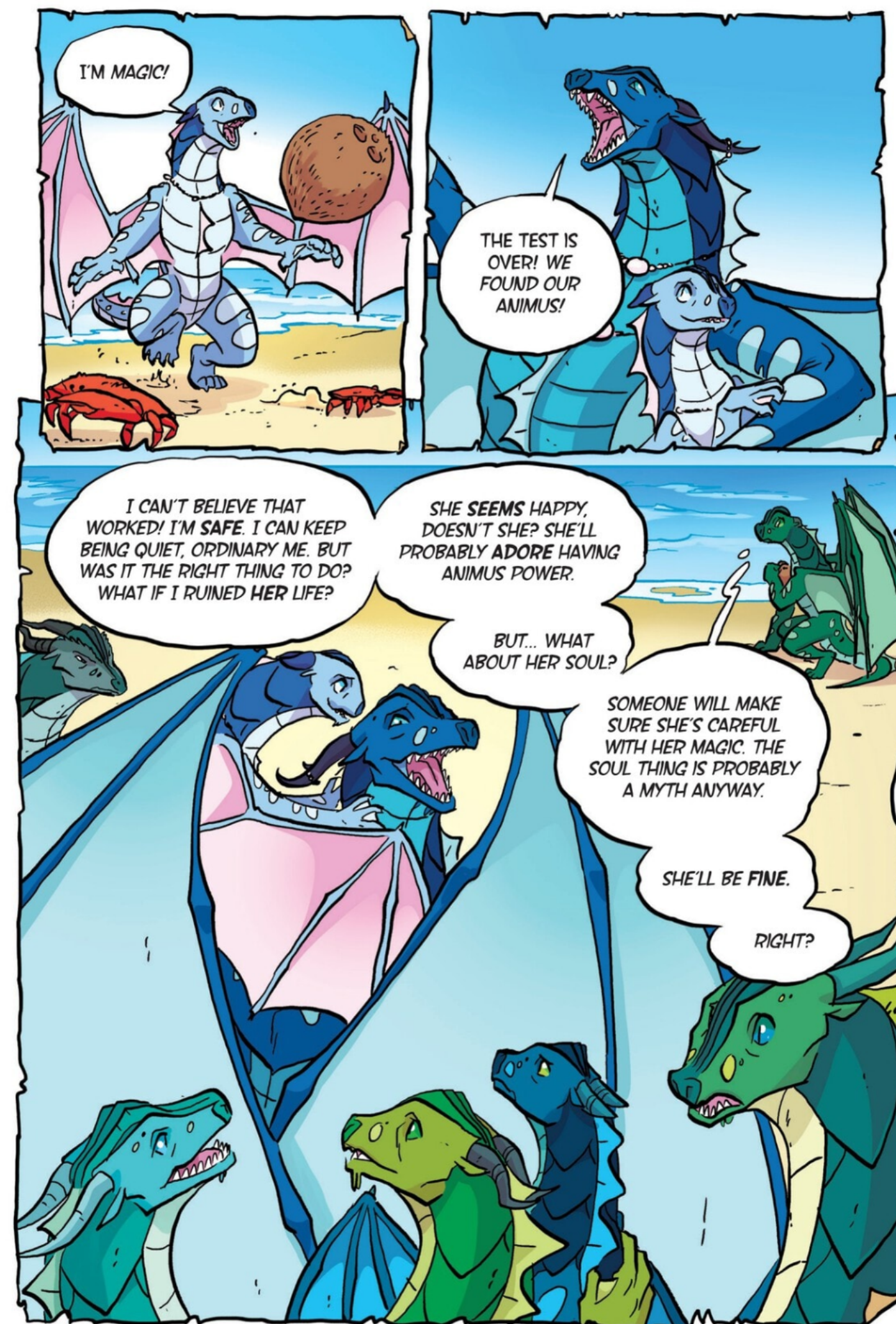
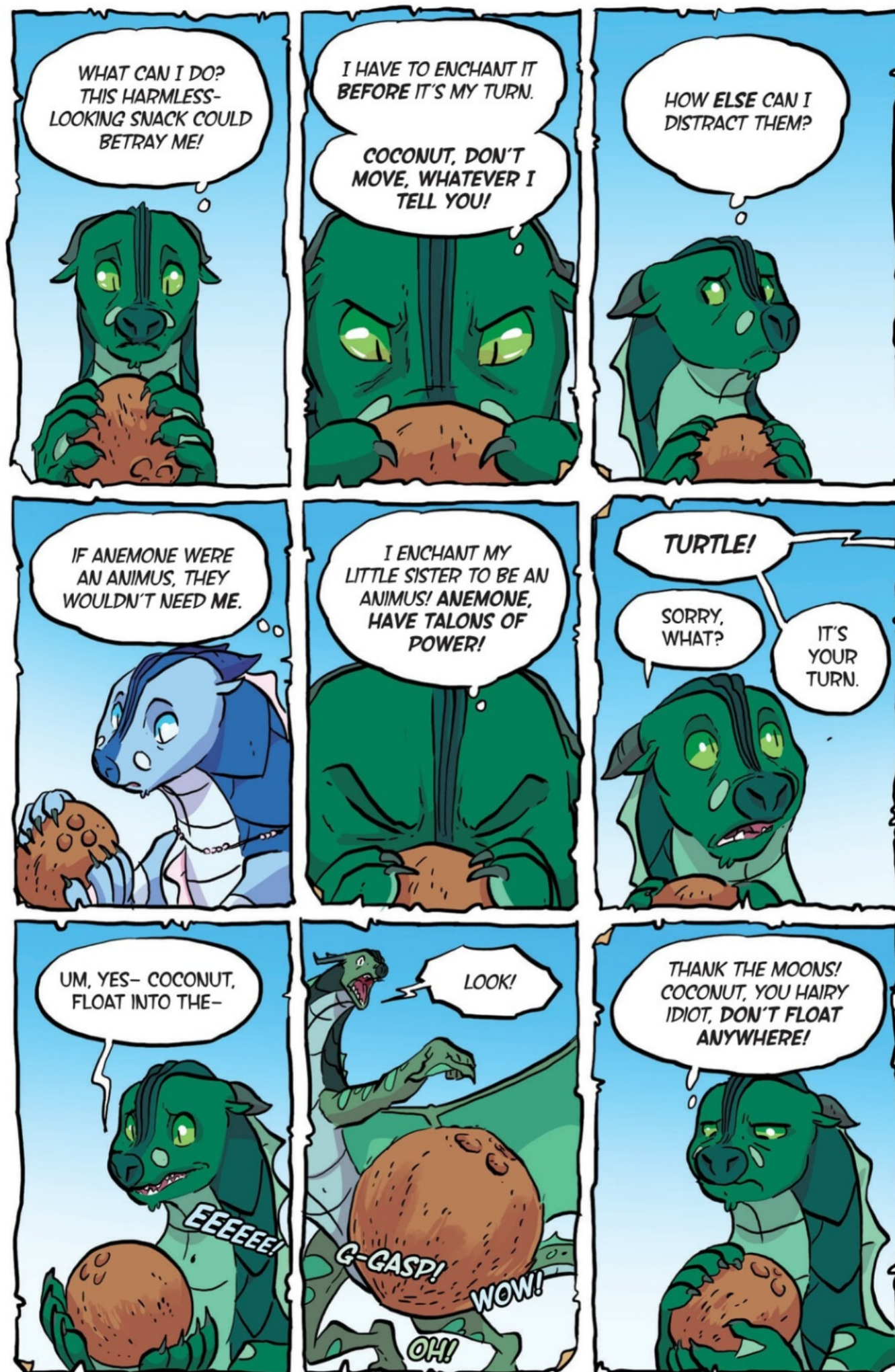


NOW, DRAGONETS, PICK UP YOUR COCONUTS, PLEASE.

WHEN I TELL YOU, ORDER YOUR COCONUTS TO FLOAT.



WE'LL START WITH YOU THREE ON THE RIGHT.





WELL, IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THERE'S AN
ONGOING MASSACRE.
THAT'S A HUGE RELIEF.



TURTLE?
HEY, LITTLE BROTHER!
I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE TO
FANCY HUGGING SCHOOL!

HI, FIN. JUST STOPPING
BY TO SAY HI. WAIT—
"HUGGING SCHOOL"?

WHERE THE TRIBES
LEARN TO HUG OUT ALL
THEIR PROBLEMS!



HAVE YOU SEEN
ANEMONE TODAY,
FIN?

HERE? DON'T
TELL ME PIKE LOST
HER!



SHE SNUCK AWAY FROM
SCHOOL. I THOUGHT SHE
MIGHT COME HERE.

...FIN-IF YOU DO SEE
HER... MAYBE KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE.

YOU'RE
FREAKING ME
OUT, TURTLE.

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT HER SOUL—
BUT I HOPE I'M
WRONG.



YIKES. I HAVE BEEN
MEANING TO DO A
MAPPING EXCURSION
TO THE OUTER ISLES...

MAYBE TAKE OUR
BROTHERS WITH
YOU.

ALL OF THEM? THAT'LL
BE MORE LIKE AN
INVASION THAN A
SCOUTING TRIP.



WHERE'S
MOTHER?

IN AUKLET'S
FAVORITE GARDEN.
AS USUAL.

THANKS,
TURTLE.



WHAT SHOULD I TELL
MOTHER? WHAT IF
ANEMONE ISN'T PLANNING
TO CHALLENGE HER?
ANEMONE SHOULD HAVE
GOTTEN HERE BEFORE ME—
SO WHERE IS SHE?

BACK AT JADE
MOUNTAIN, I HOPE.
BUT IF SHE'S NOT...



MOTHER.

OH, HELLO.

ISN'T AUKLET
PERFECT?





YOUR MAJESTY,
A DRAGON FROM
THE TALONS OF
PEACE IS HERE TO
SEE YOU.



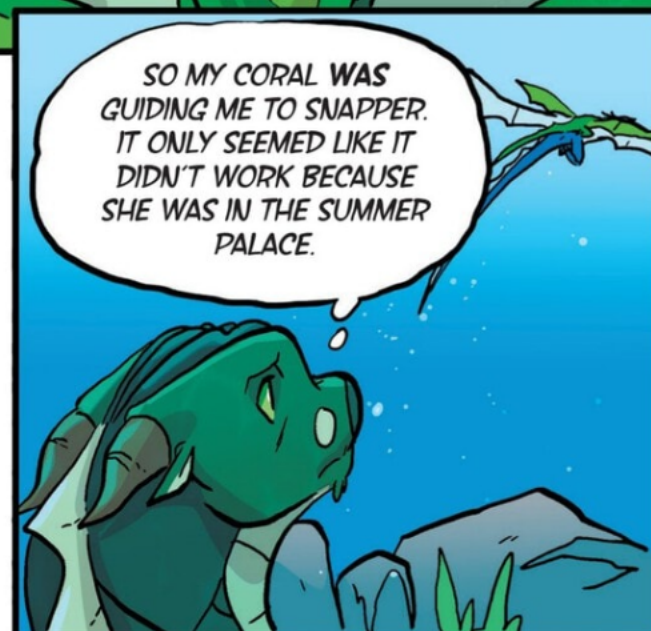
WE HAVE TO GET
BACK TO THE
PALACE, AUKLET.

OK!



BYE, TURTLE!

I WON'T LET
ANYONE HURT YOU,
LITTLE SISTER.



SO MY CORAL WAS
GUIDING ME TO SNAPPER.
IT ONLY SEEMED LIKE IT
DIDN'T WORK BECAUSE
SHE WAS IN THE SUMMER
PALACE.



THE CORAL! I CAN USE
THAT TO FIGURE OUT
WHERE ANEMONE IS!

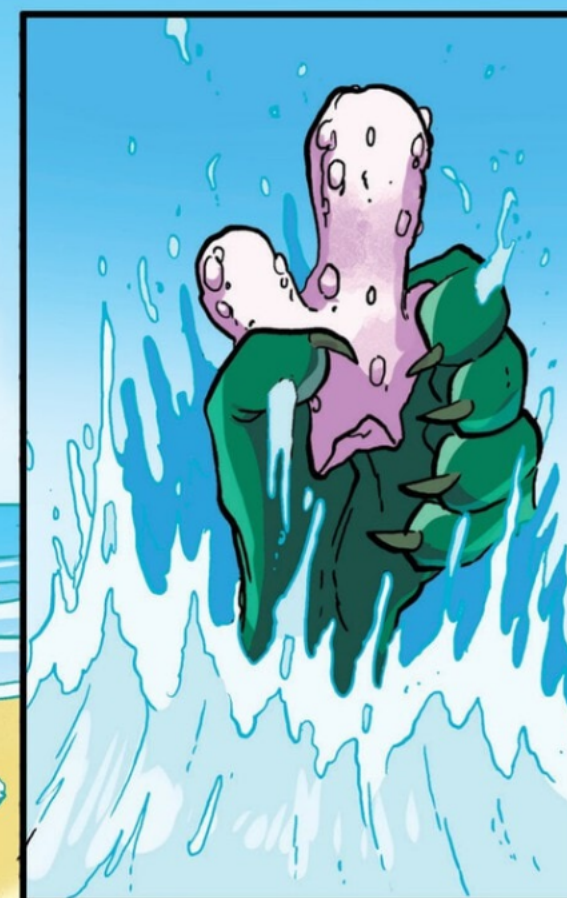
...THAT
REALLY
SHOULD HAVE
OCCURRED
TO ME
EARLIER...

PLEASE LET IT
TAKE ME BACK TO
JADE MOUNTAIN.



ANEMONE.
WHERE IS MY
SISTER?

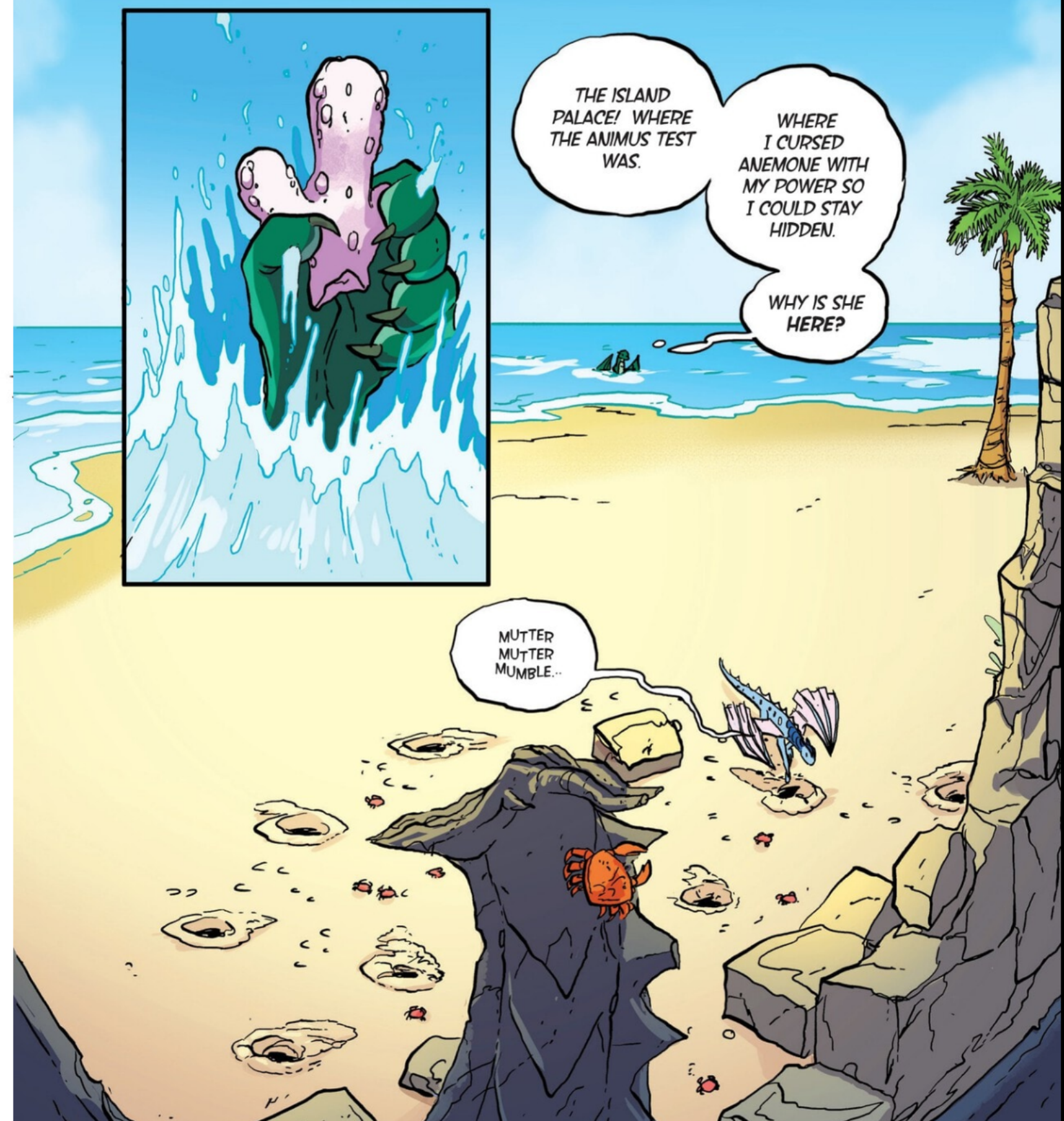
IT'S LEADING ME AWAY
FROM THE DEEP PALACE!
SHE'S NOT LYING IN WAIT
TO KILL MOTHER!



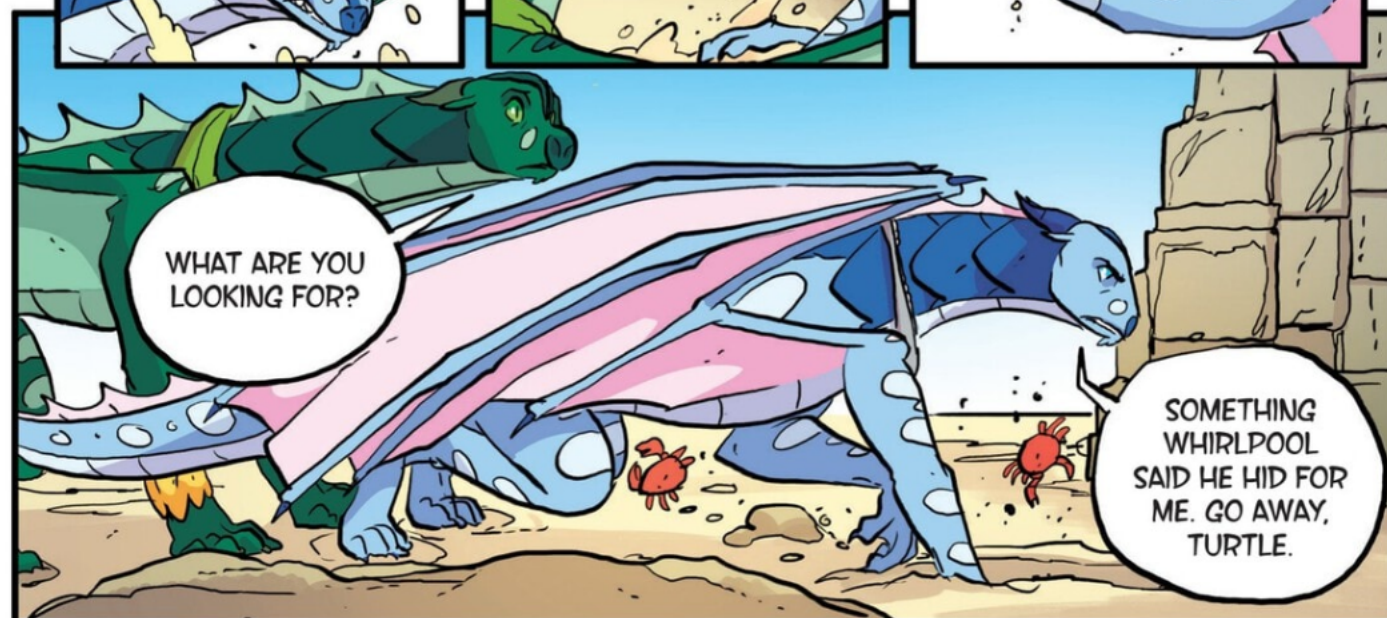
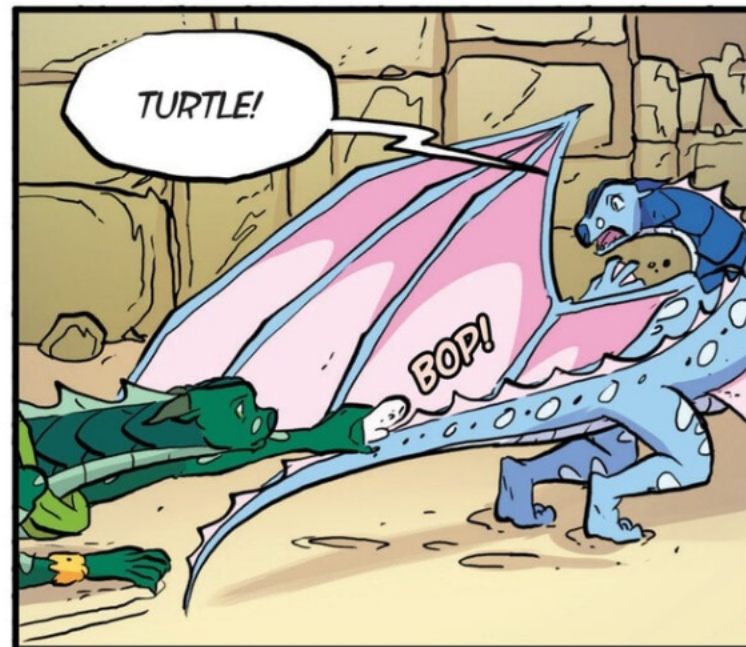
THE ISLAND
PALACE! WHERE
THE ANIMUS TEST
WAS.

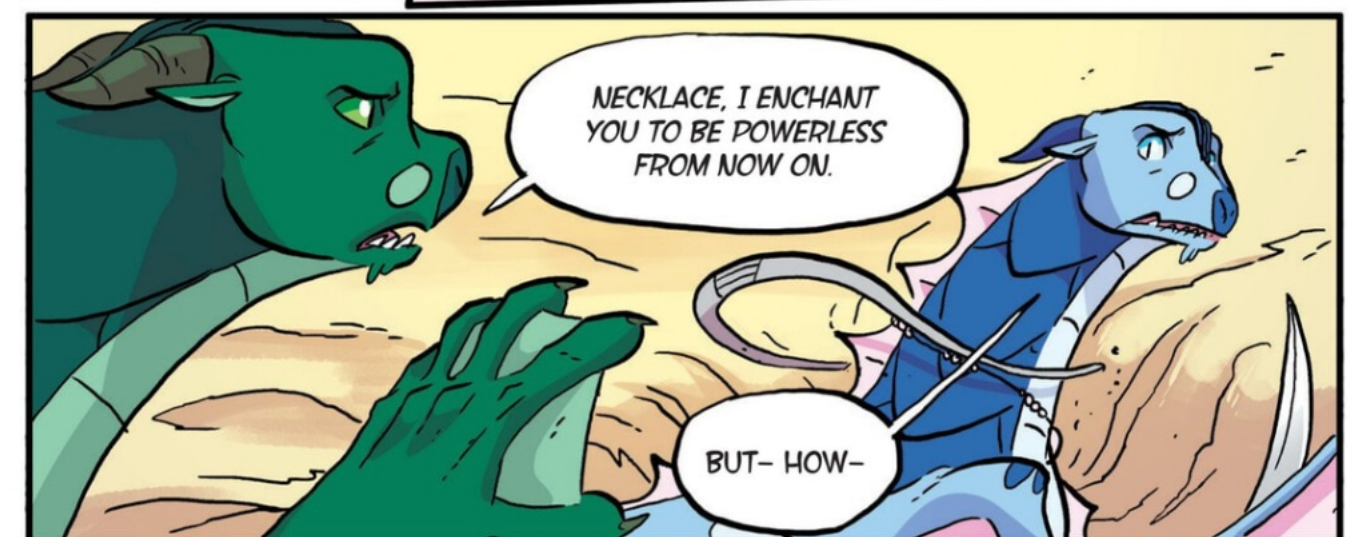
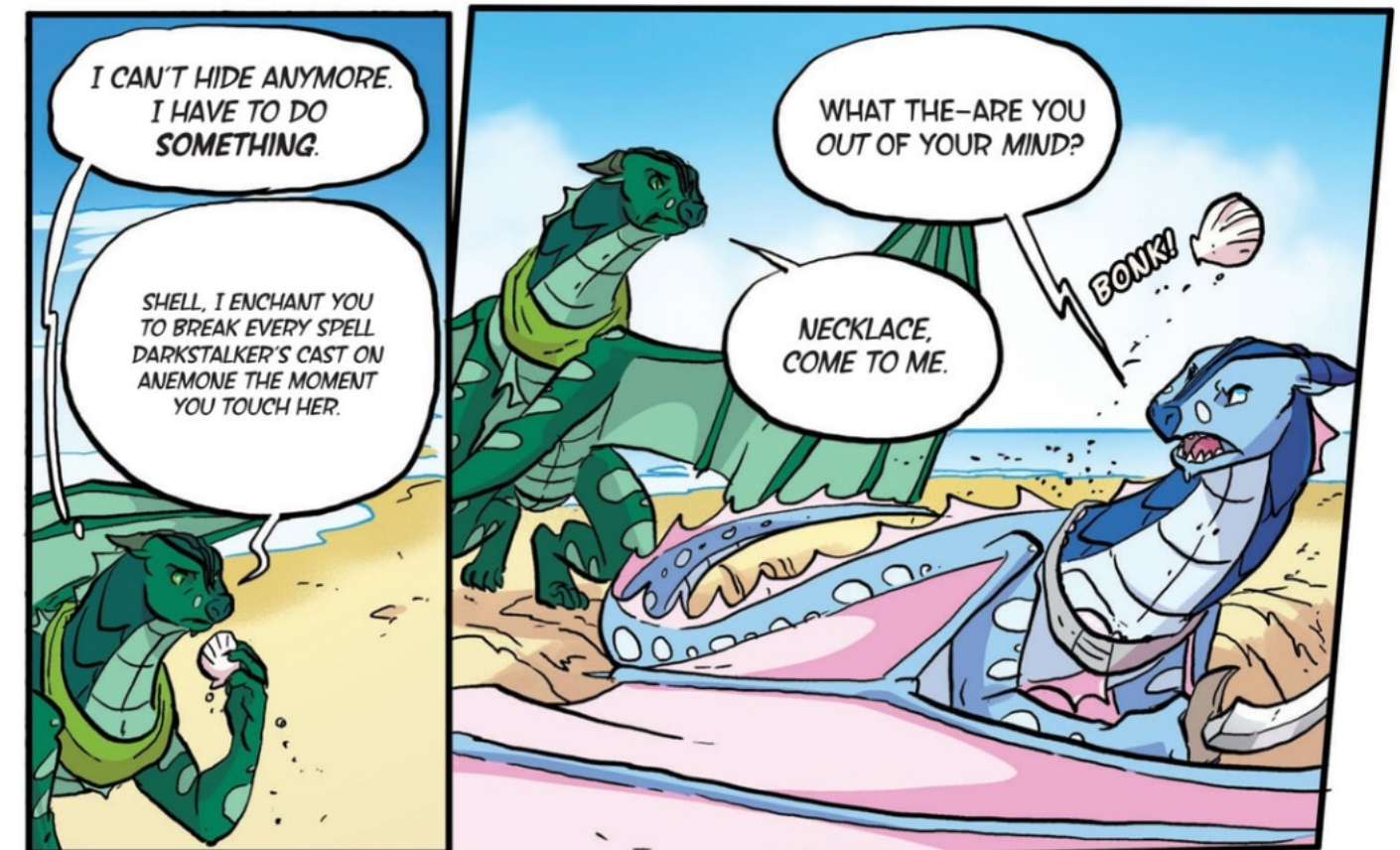
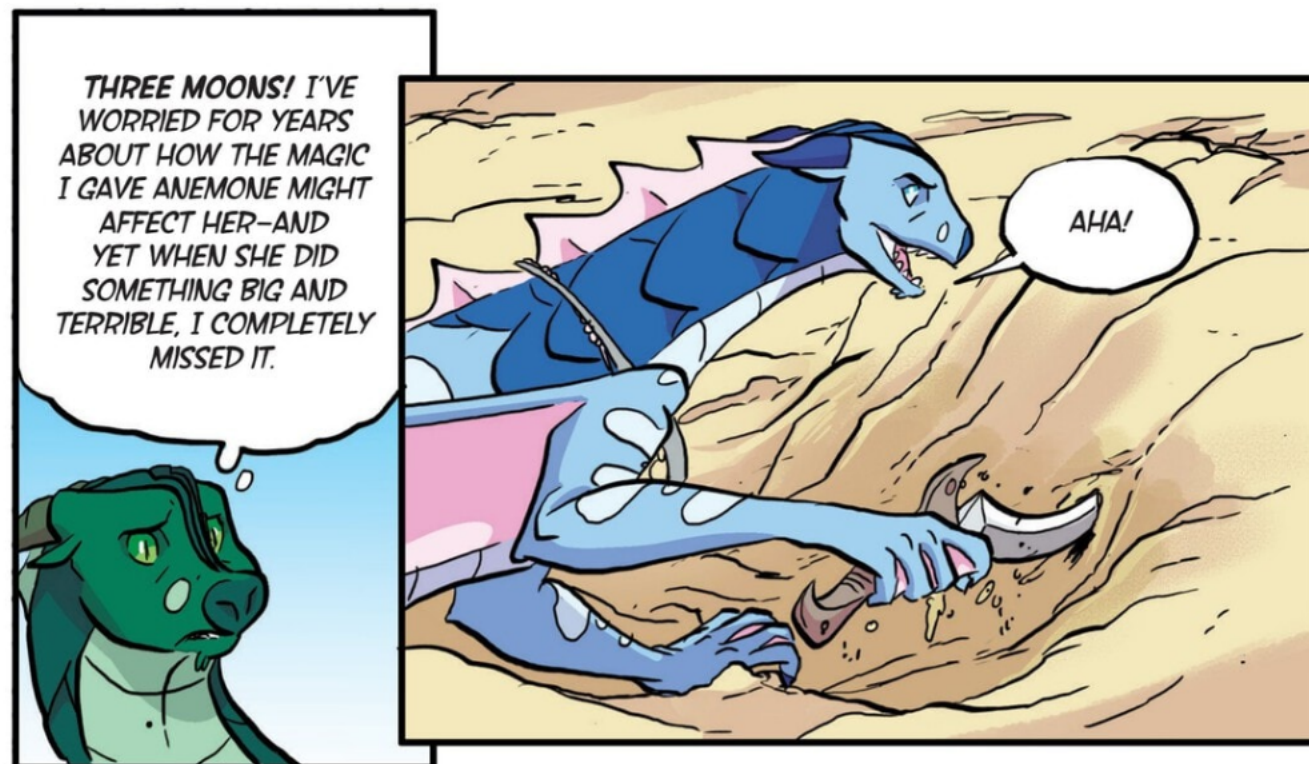
WHERE
I CURSED
ANEMONE WITH
MY POWER SO
I COULD STAY
HIDDEN.

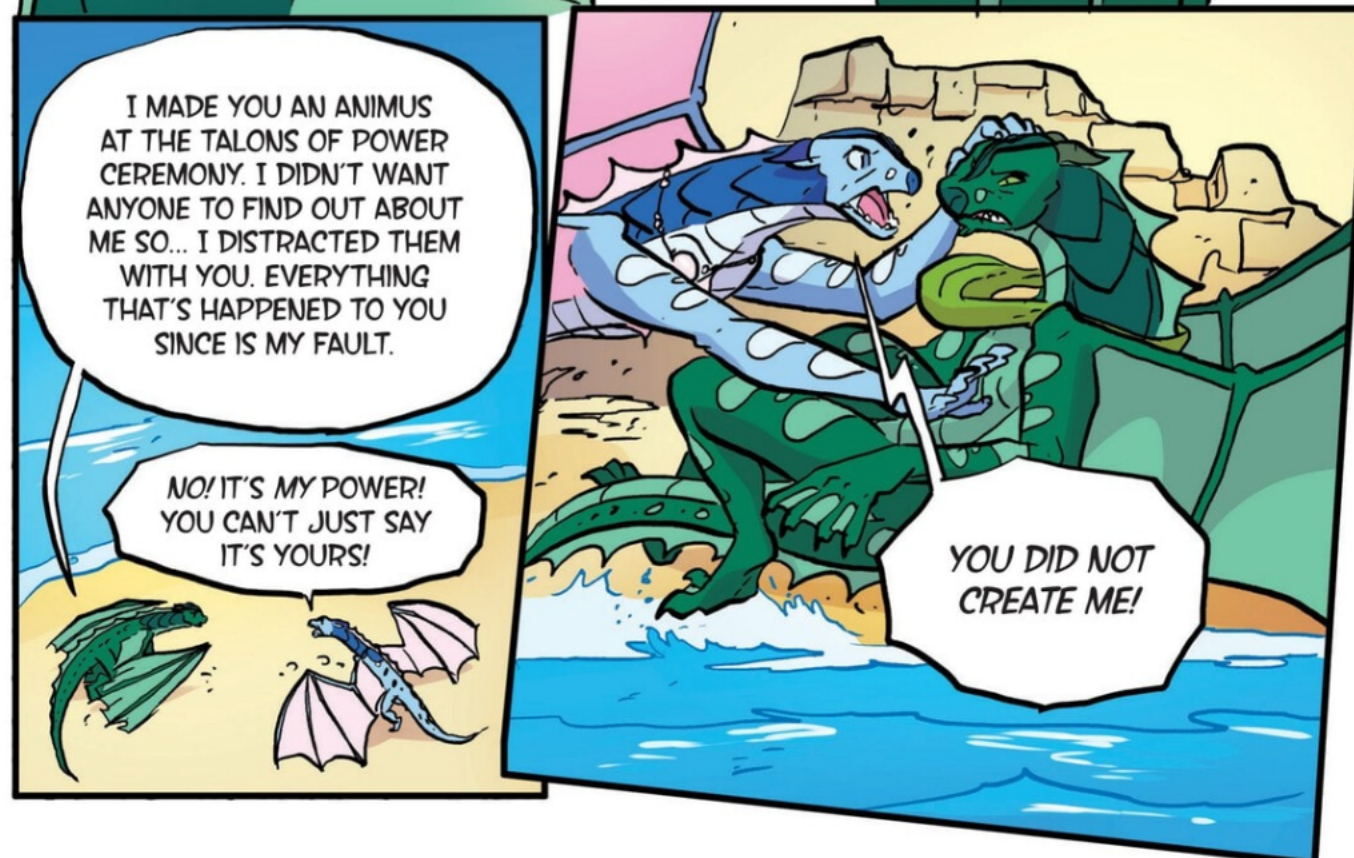
WHY IS SHE
HERE?

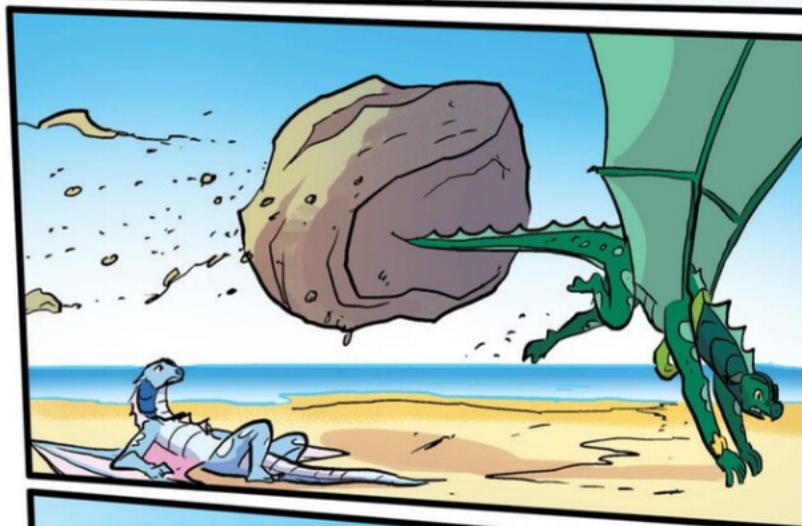
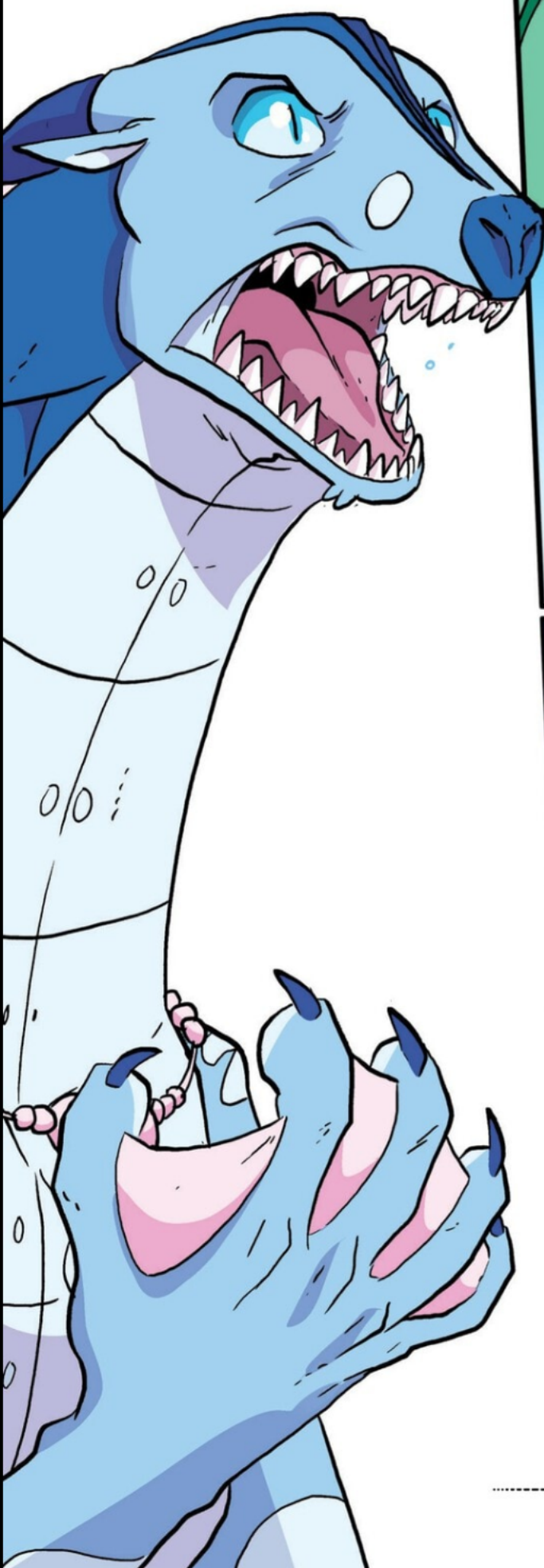


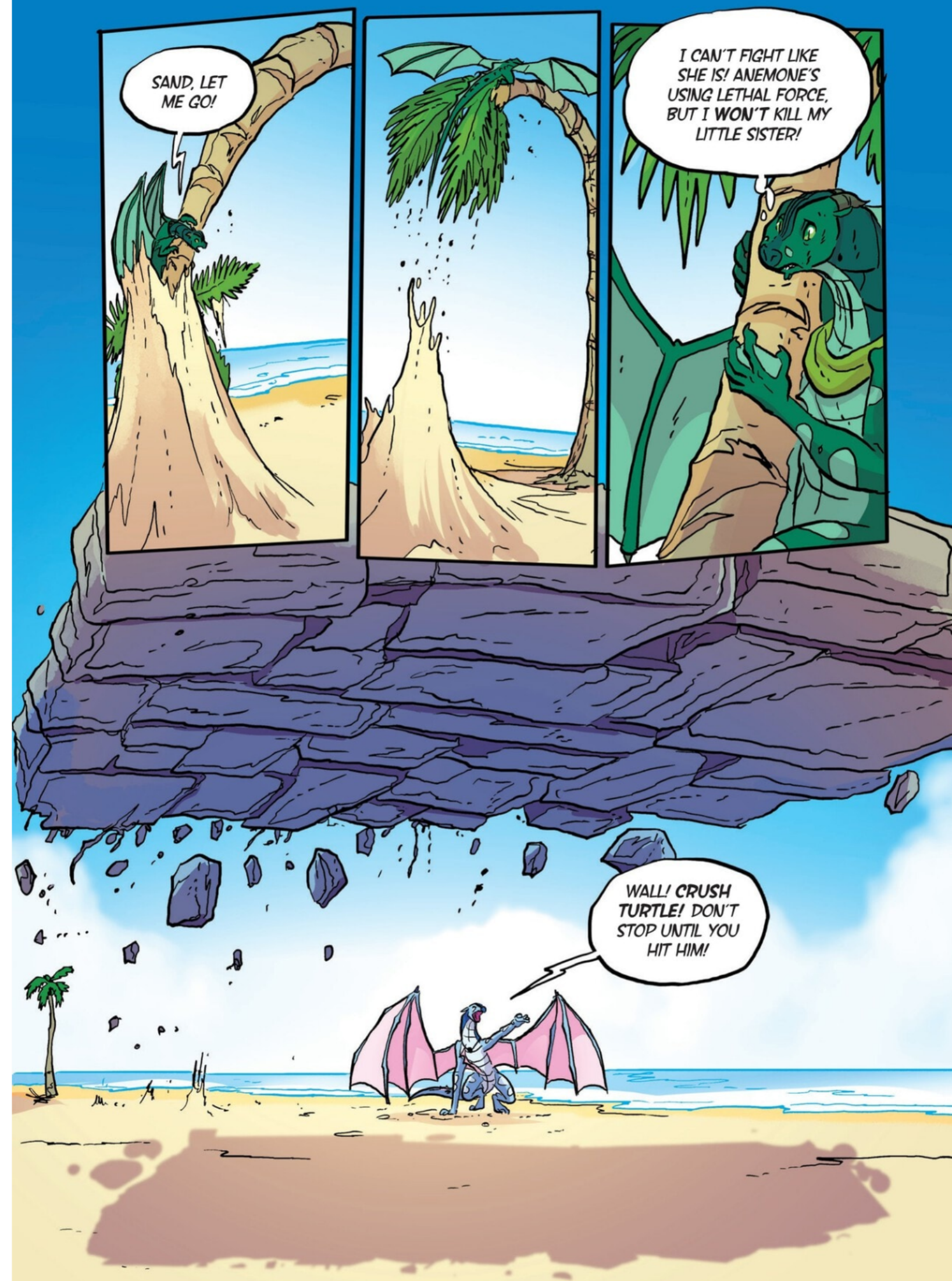
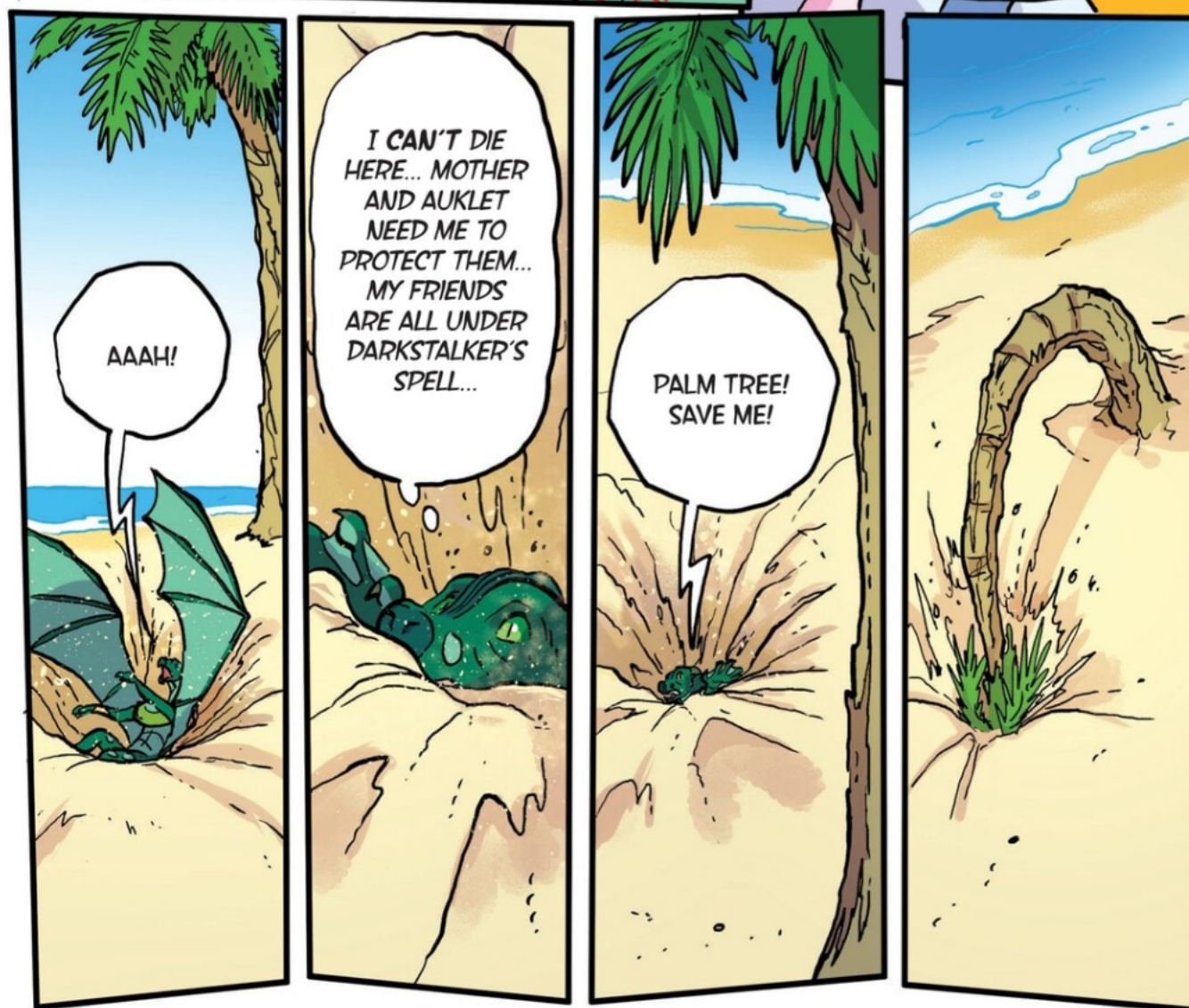
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUMBLE...

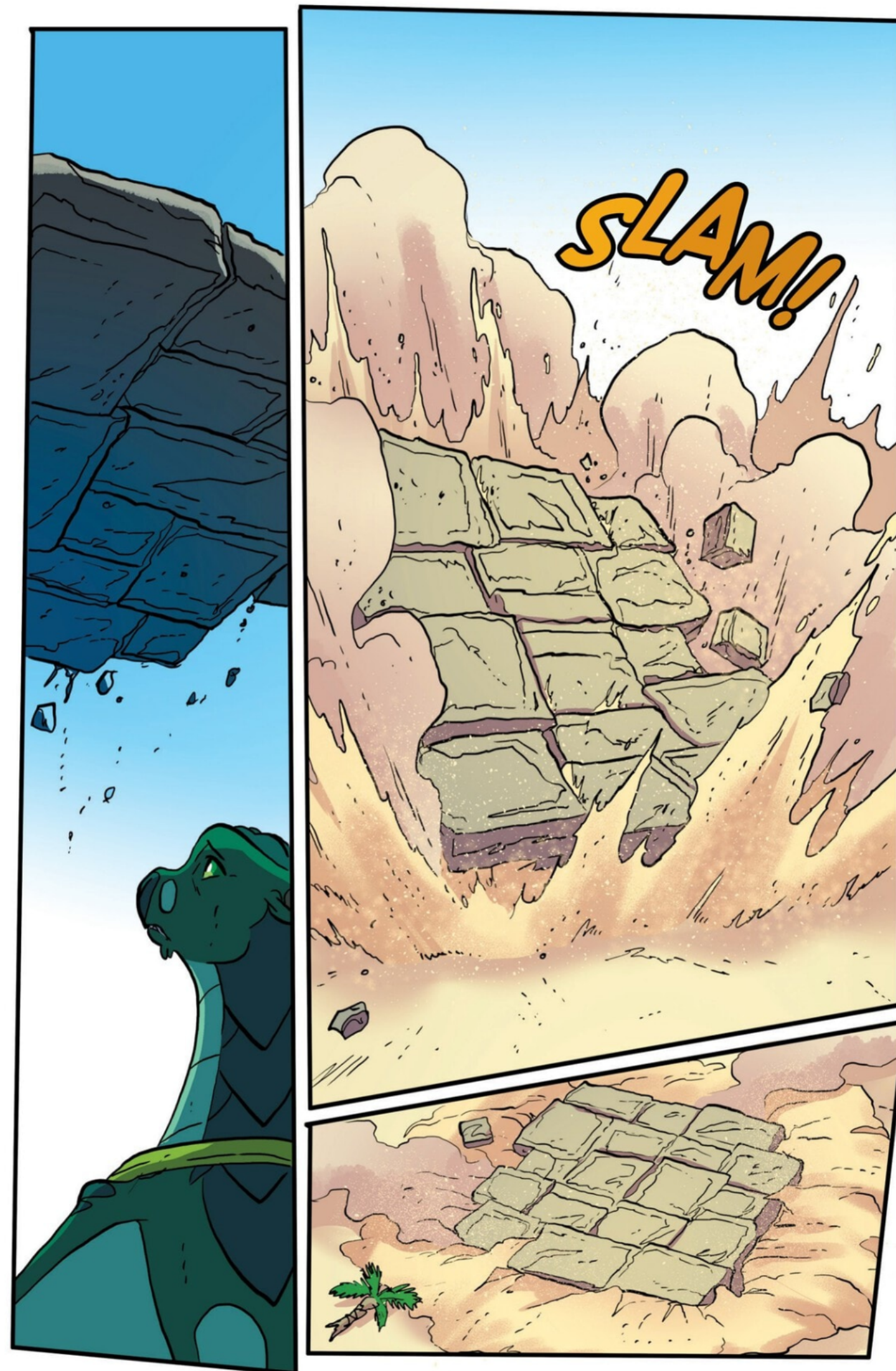
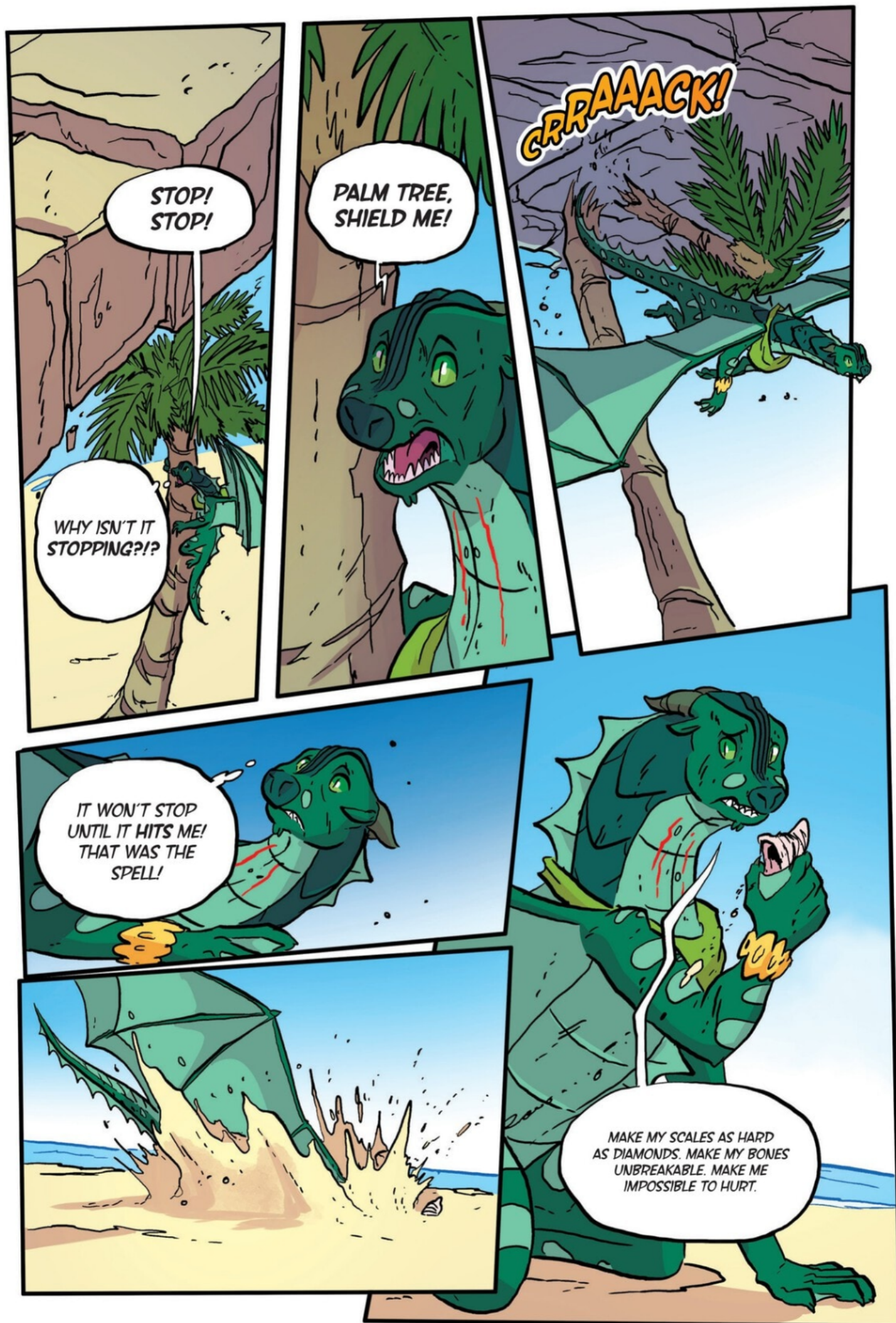


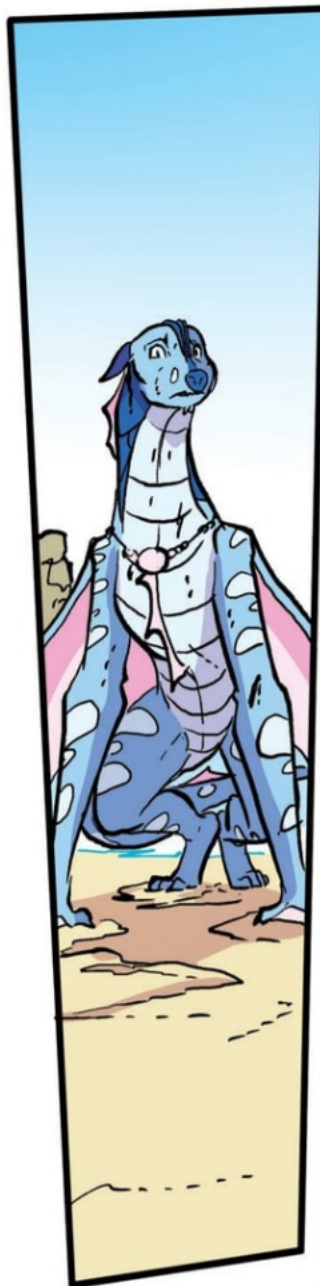




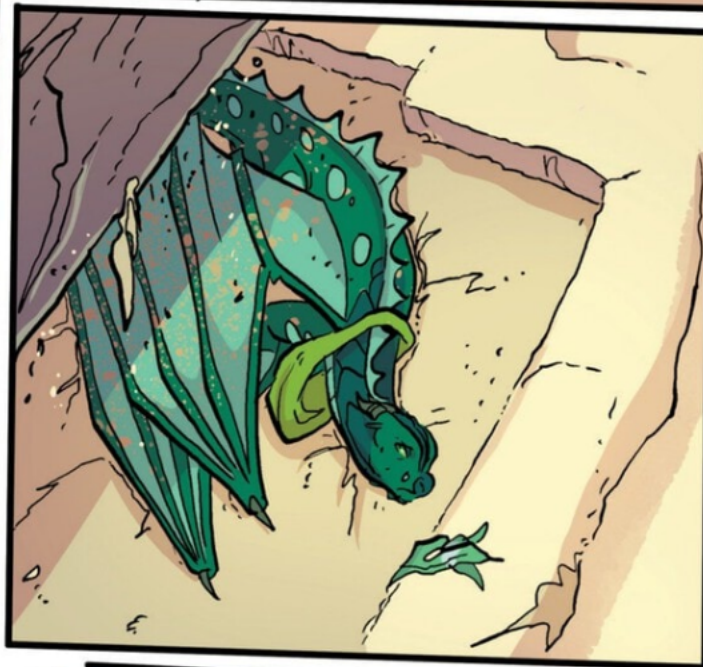






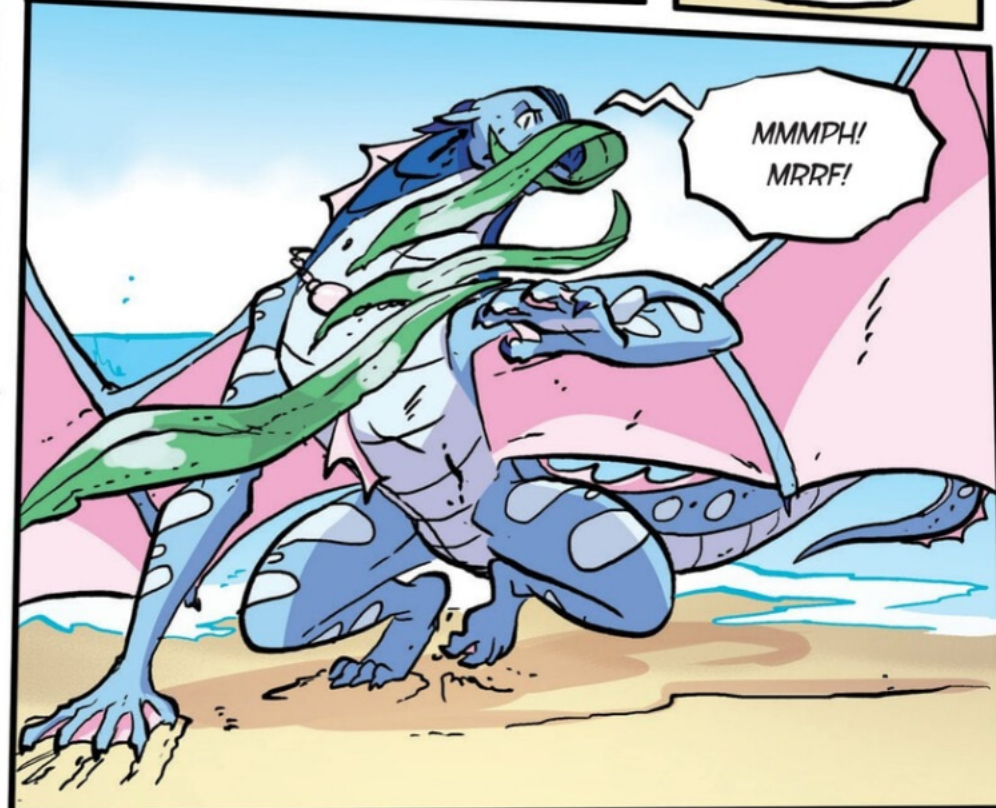
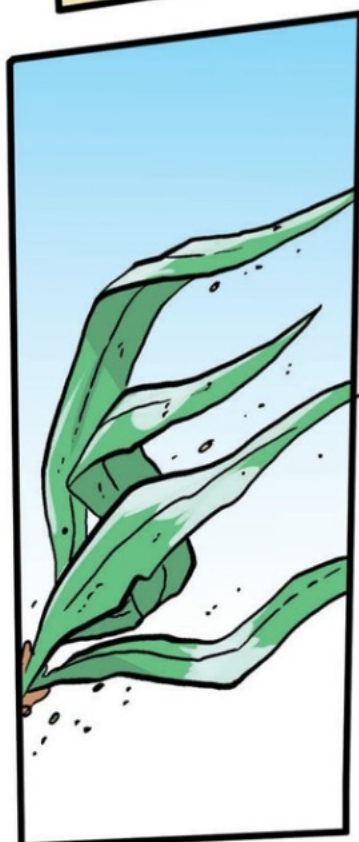


GET
OFF... ME...

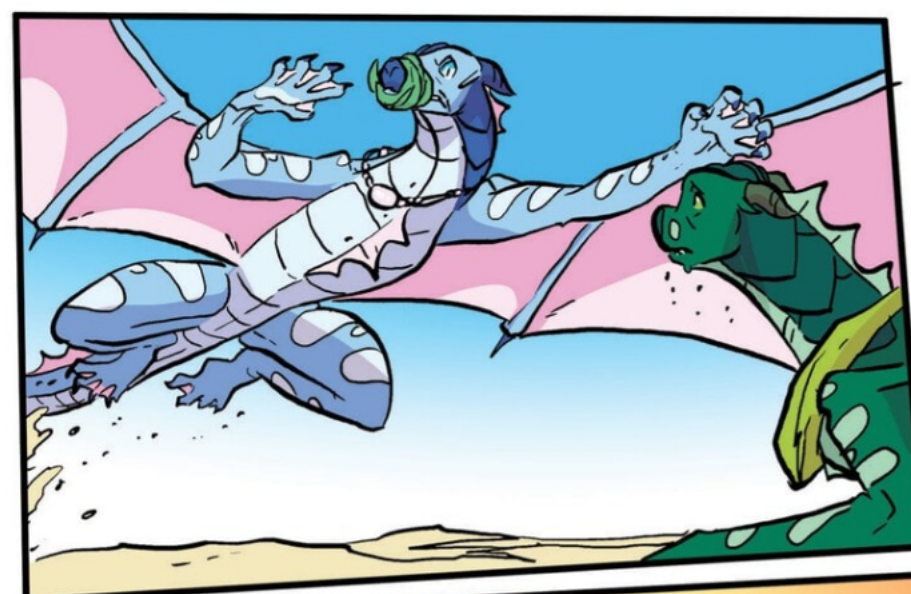


SEAWEED, WRAP
ANEMONE'S
MOUTH SHUT SO
SHE CAN'T CAST
SPELLS BY VOICE
OR THOUGHT
WHILE YOU'RE
TOUCHING HER.

...BUT MAKE
SURE SHE CAN
STILL BREATHE.



MMMPH!
MRRF!



TING



TING
TING

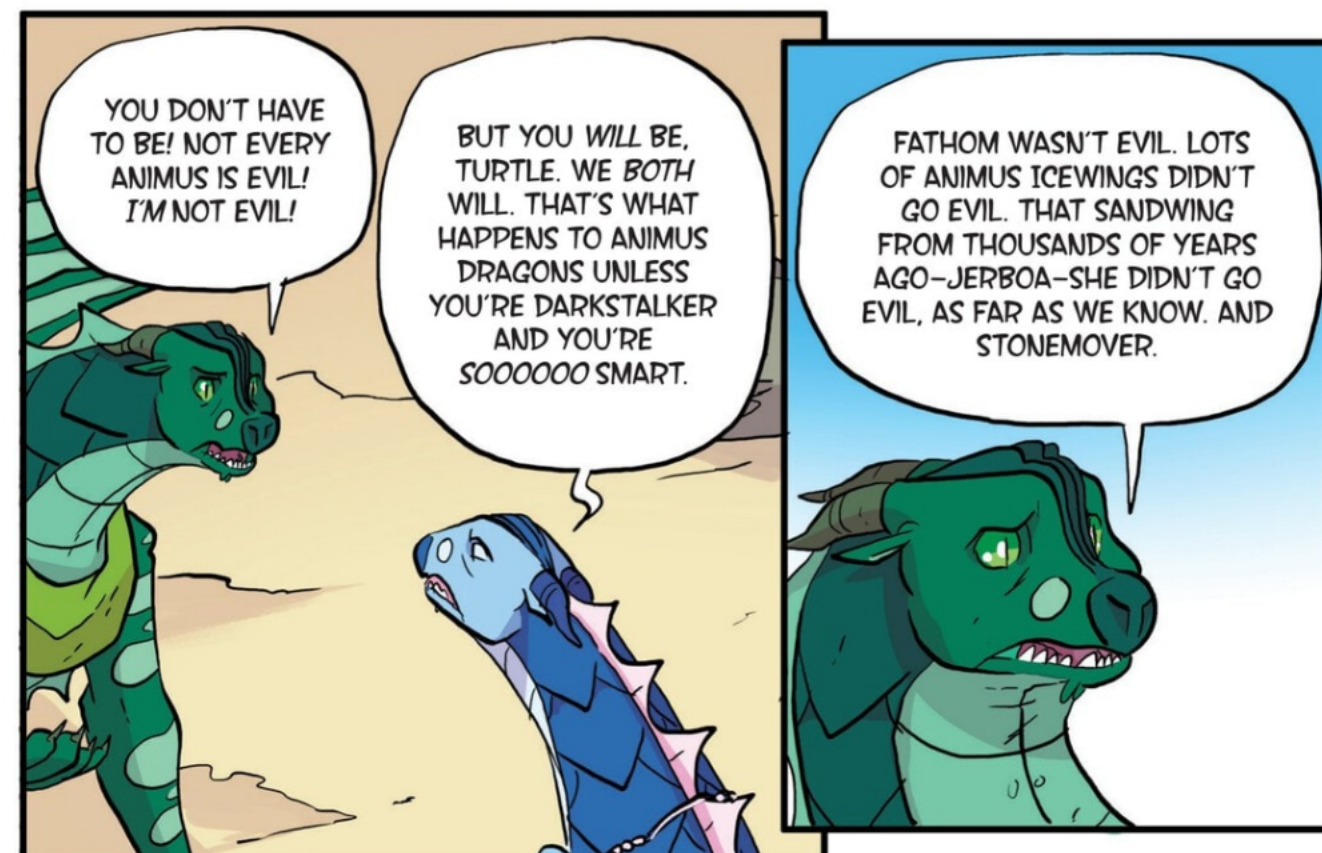
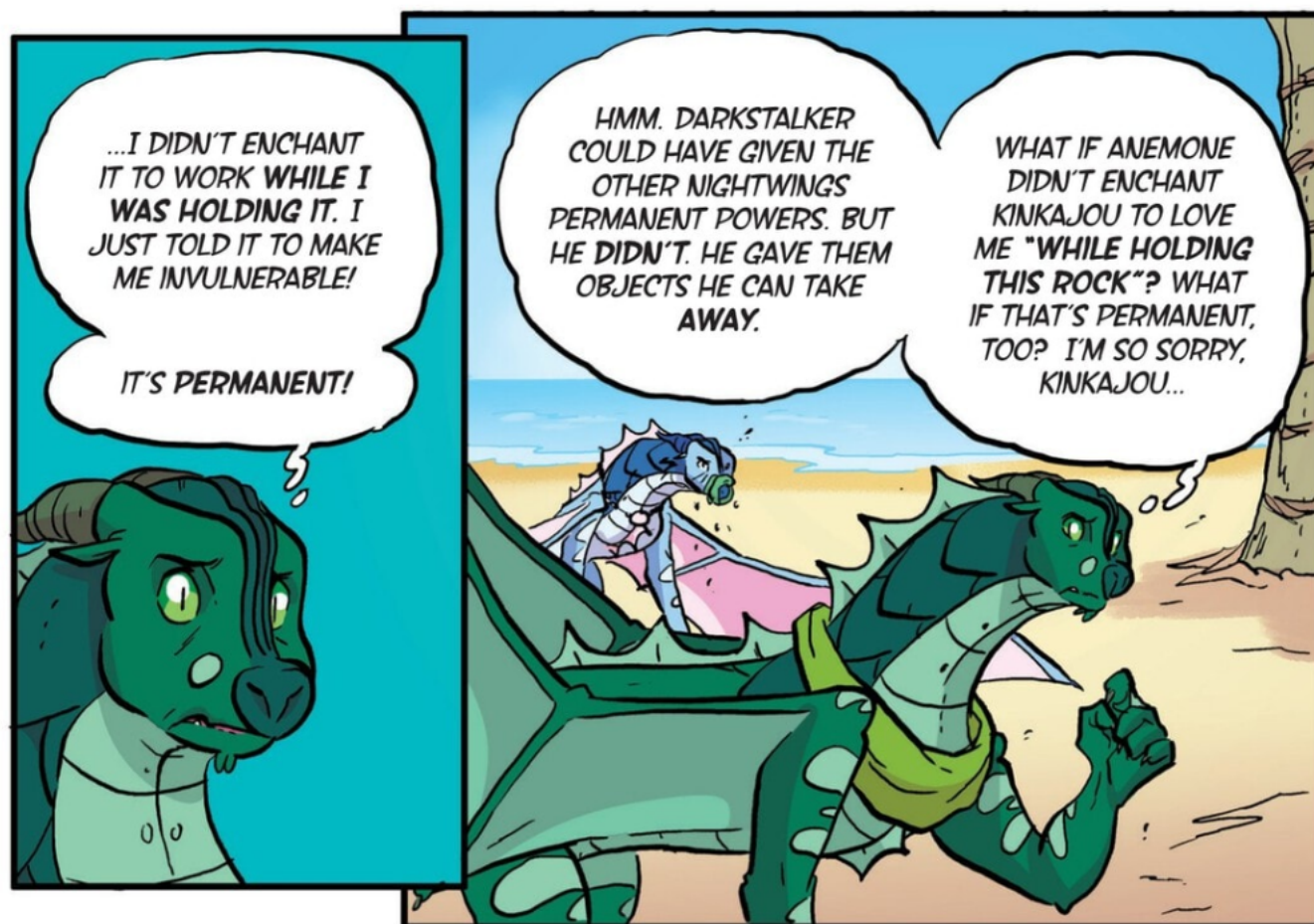
MY SCALES—
THEY'RE HARD AS
DIAMONDS—



TING
TING
TING

BUT WHY? I'M
NOT HOLDING
THE SHELL I
ENCHANTED!





IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME. I SEE WHIRLPOOL ALL THE TIME. I SEE ALL THE DRAGONS I'VE HURT. NOW MOON, TOO. I HATE WHAT I DID, BUT I ALSO FEEL *PROUD*.

WHATEVER SOUL I HAD, IT'S LONG GONE.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT LOSING YOUR SOUL? WHAT IF IT'S MORE LIKE... THE MORE YOU USE YOUR POWER FOR BAD THINGS, THE MORE YOU FEEL ENTITLED TO USE IT FOR ANYTHING.

BUT YOU CAN STILL CHOOSE TO DO GOOD, OR BE GOOD, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID BEFORE. YOU JUST HAVE TO TRY *REALLY HARD*.

AND STOP YOURSELF BEFORE DOING EVEN WORSE THINGS.

I SUPPOSE YOU MEAN LIKE KILLING A BUNCH OF FAMILY.

WELL, YEAH, THAT'S ONE EXAMPLE.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CAN'T STOP MYSELF? AND YOU'RE NOT HERE TO WRAP ME IN ENCHANTED SEAWEED?

DO-DO YOU WANT ME TO TRY TO TAKE YOUR POWER AWAY, ANEMONE?



BUT THEN WHAT WOULD I BE? I LIKE KNOWING I'M RARE AND SPECIAL. I WANT TO BE POWERFUL.

I'M JUST... SCARED OF IT, TOO.

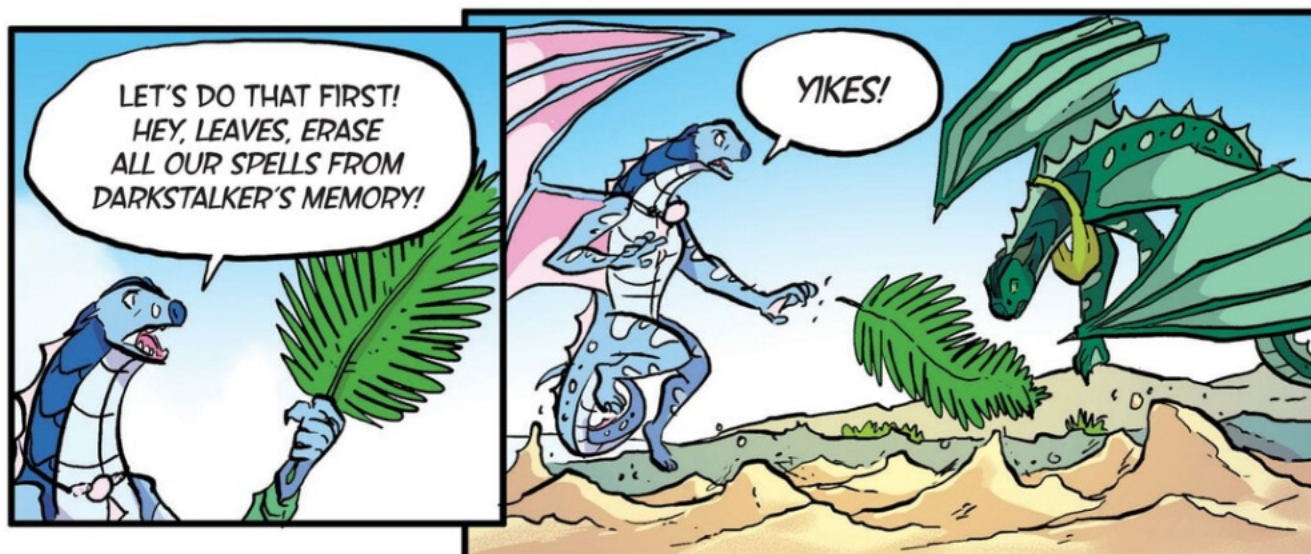
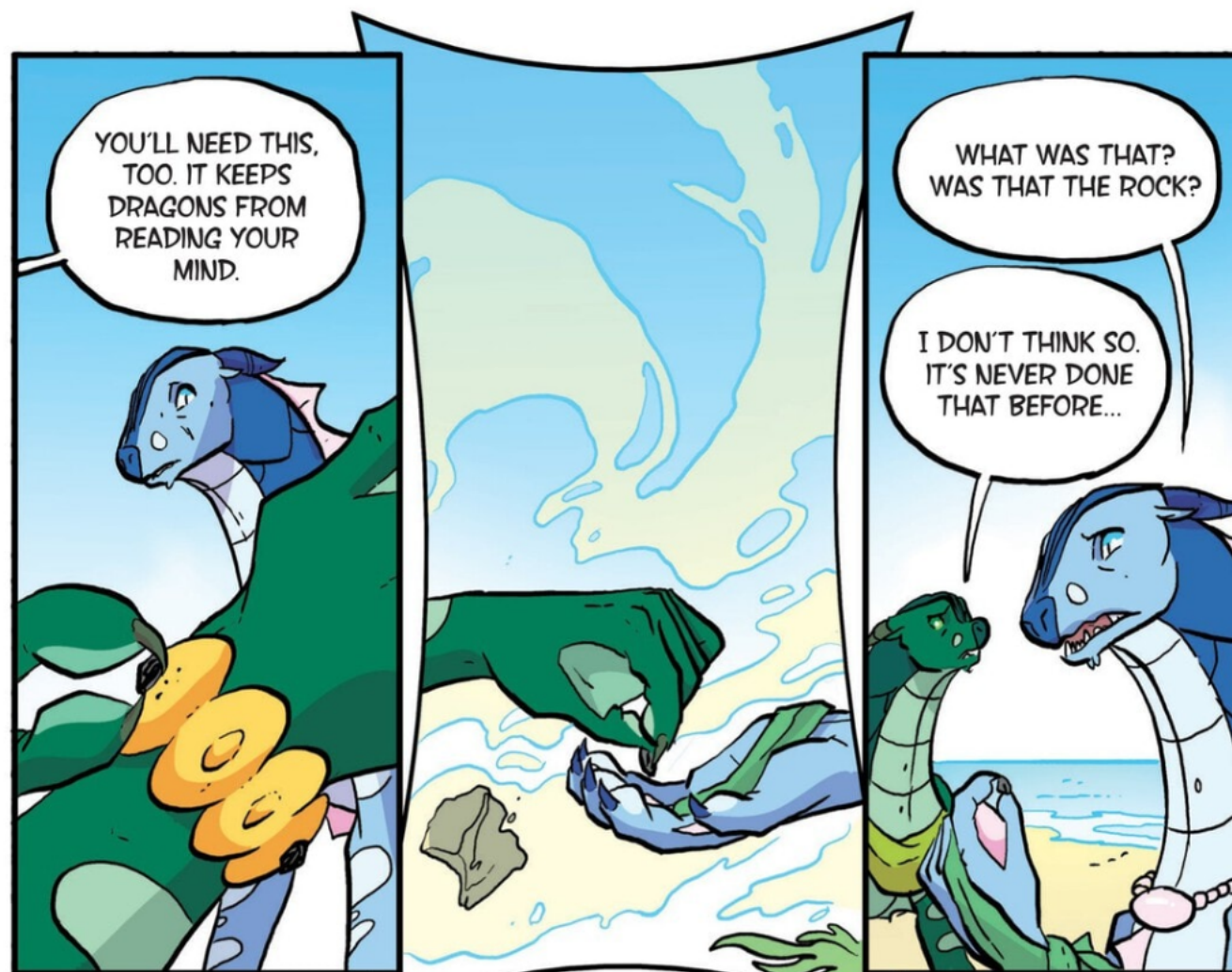
I KNOW. I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

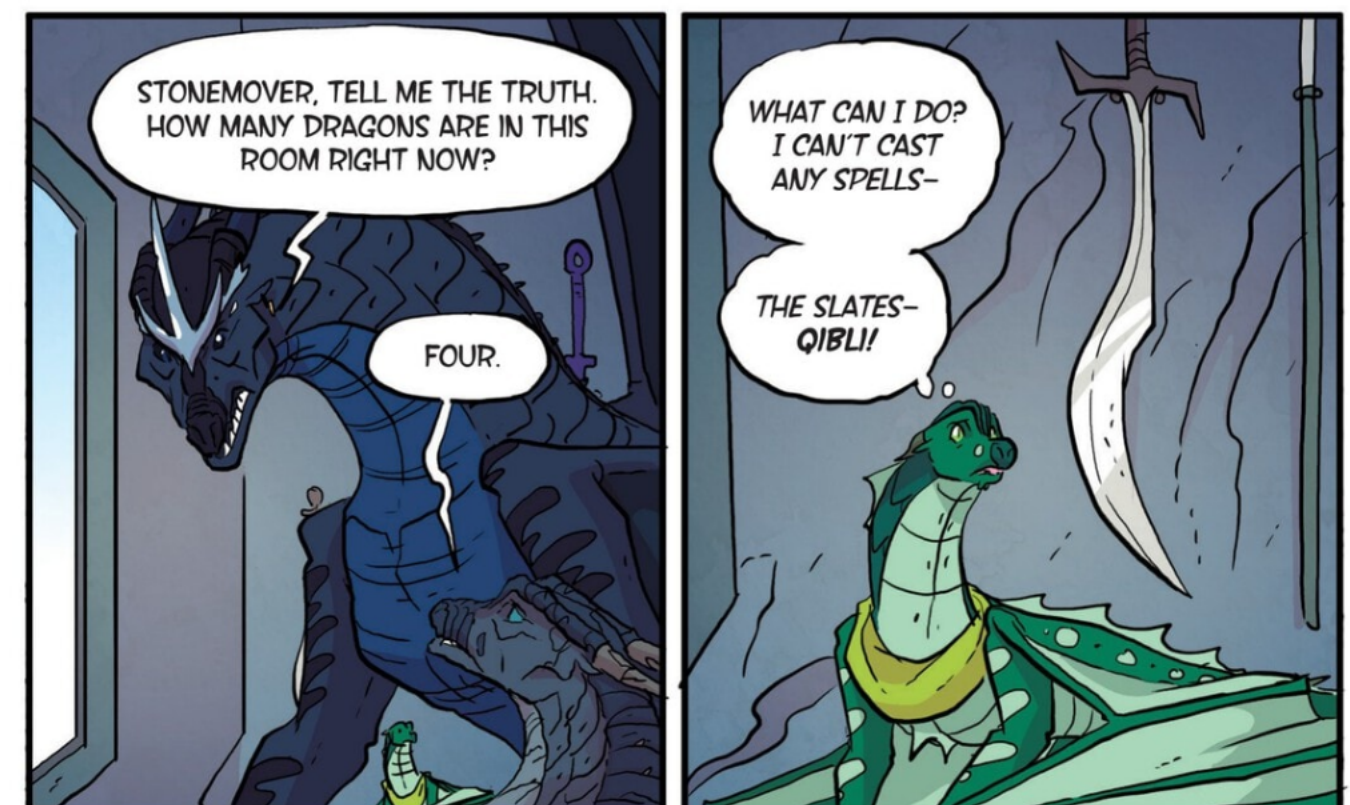
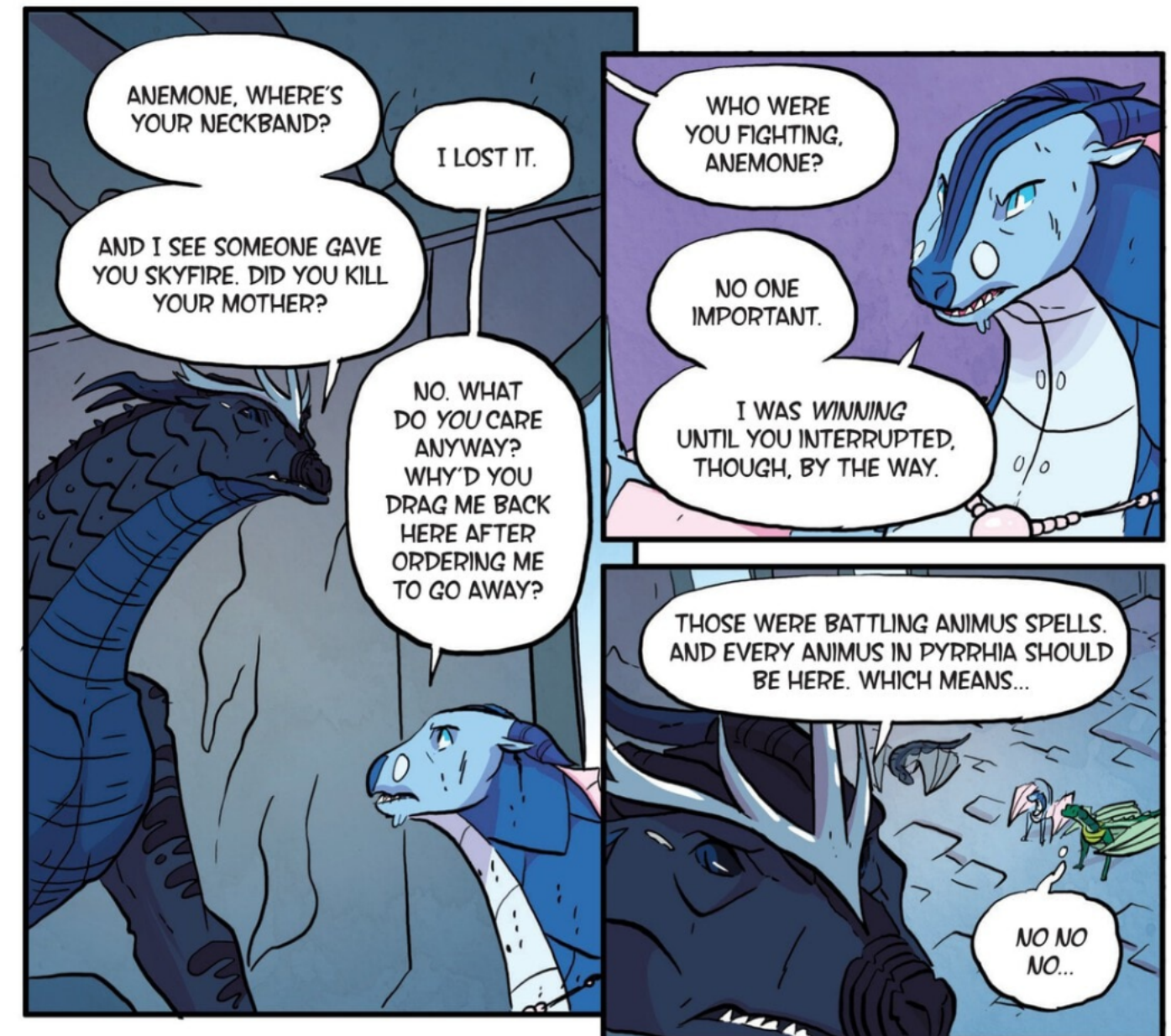
REALLY? YOU DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO BE POWERFUL.

I GUESS ANEMONE'S RIGHT... BUT I'D NEVER GIVE UP MY MAGIC EITHER. IT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES ME SPECIAL.

I'VE CAST A SPELL TO HIDE FROM DARKSTALKER. I THINK WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

OHhhh, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT. I THOUGHT HE JUST FOUND YOU TOO BORING TO NOTICE!







PLEASE SEE THIS SOON, QIBLI!

DARKSTALKER KNOWS ABOUT ME.

TRAPPED IN THE NIGHTWING PALACE.

HELP

SCRATCH
SCRATCH



I KNEW IT. THERE'S A COWARDLY ANIMUS PLOTTING AGAINST ME IN SECRET.

SWORD, BRING ME A DRAGON OUR HIDDEN ANIMUS CARES ABOUT VERY MUCH. ALIVE.

ERASE
ERASE



FOR NOW.



HE'S NOT COWARDLY, HE'S SMART! HE KNEW RIGHT AWAY NOT TO TRUST YOU. YOU THINK EVERYTHING YOU DO IS RIGHT. YOU THINK YOU'RE SO PERFECT THAT YOU DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE DRAGONS AROUND YOU. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO DECIDE—



BY ALL THE MOONS! I ENCHANT THIS DRAGON TO OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND.

NOW SHUT UP!

SNAP!



NO! THAT'S THE SAME SPELL HE PUT ON HIS FATHER. HE CAN MAKE ANEMONE DO ANYTHING NOW!



THAT'S BETTER. WITH YOU AND STONEMOVER UNDER MY CONTROL, I CAN FIGURE OUT SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT ANIMUS POWER.

IT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME STONEMOVER WAS A PUPPET! HE DID SAY HIS TALONS WEREN'T HIS OWN...



LIKE, HOW MANY SPELLS CAN ONE CAST IN A DAY? CAN TWO DRAGONS ENCHANT SOMETHING SIMULTANEOUSLY? AND OF COURSE... HOW MANY SPELLS DOES IT TAKE TO TURN EVIL?

FOR YOU, MY DEAR ANEMONE, I'M GUESSING IT WON'T BE MANY MORE.

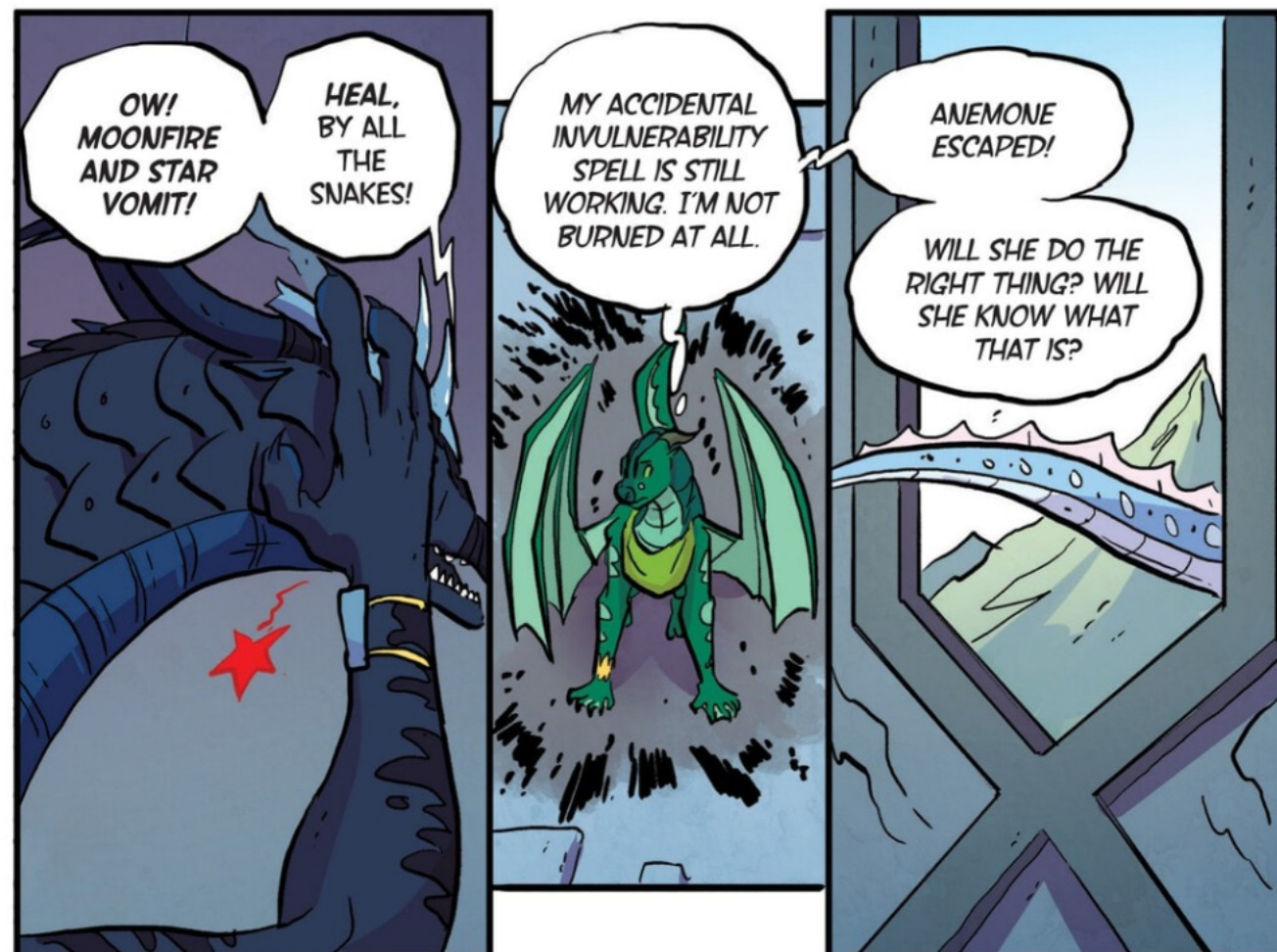
THIS BETTER BE IMPORTANT!



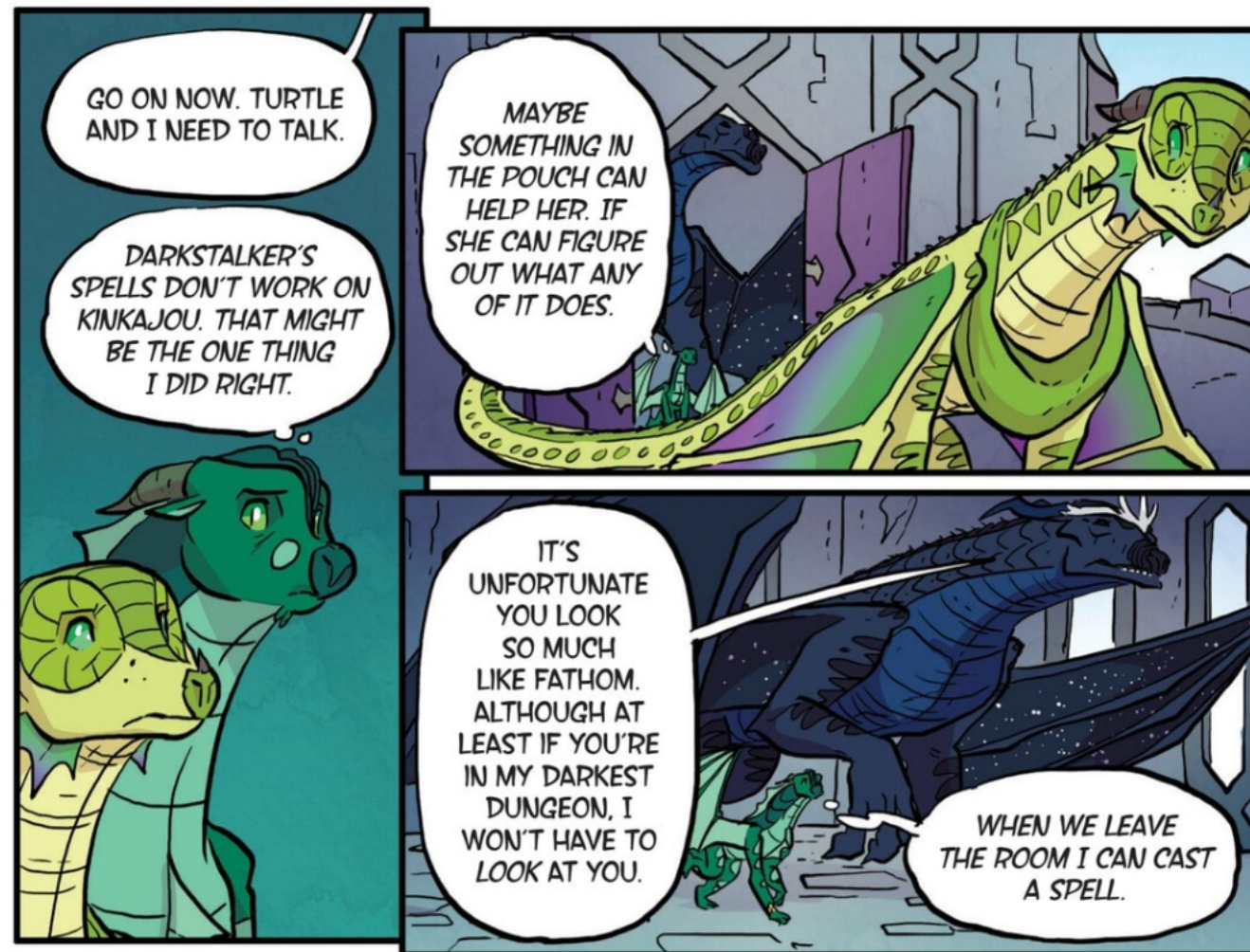
SUMMONING A DRAGON WITH A SWORD IN THE MIDDLE OF SUNTIME! SOMEONE HAS THE MANNERS OF AN ORANGUTAN!

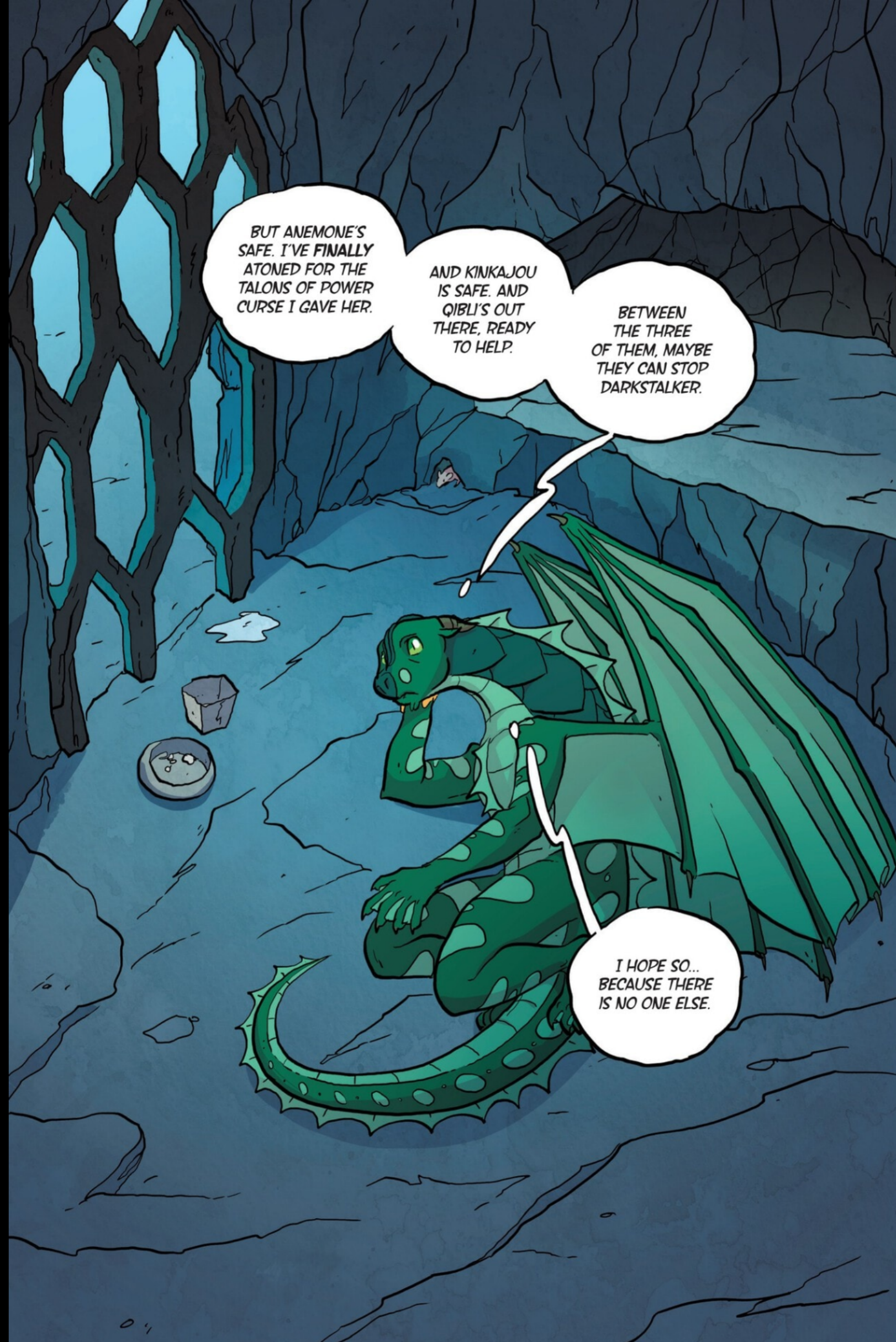












BUT ANEMONE'S
SAFE. I'VE FINALLY
ATONED FOR THE
TALONS OF POWER
CURSE I GAVE HER.

AND KINKAJOU
IS SAFE. AND
QIBLI'S OUT
THERE, READY
TO HELP.

BETWEEN
THE THREE
OF THEM, MAYBE
THEY CAN STOP
DARKSTALKER.

I HOPE SO...
BECAUSE THERE
IS NO ONE ELSE.

EPILOGUE

IN THE KINGDOM OF SAND,
THREE EXPLOSIONS ROCKED
THREE DIFFERENT MARKETS
SIMULTANEOUSLY.

DRAGONS WEARING BLACK HOODS
AND GOLD MEDALLIONS STAMPED
WITH BIRD SYMBOLS WERE SEEN
FLEEING ALL THREE SCENES.

SANDWINGS MUTTERED AND
GROWLED: "WHO IS DOING
THIS? WHY ISN'T QUEEN THORN
KEEPING US SAFE?"



AND FAR TO THE NORTH, IN THE ICE KINGDOM, WINTER'S BROTHER HAILSTORM STOOD BEFORE THE WALL OF RANKINGS, SHIVERING WITH FEVER.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO OUR TRIBE?
ARE WE BEING PUNISHED FOR WHAT HAPPENED
BETWEEN ME AND WINTER?

IS THERE NEWS? ARE MY
PARENTS ANY BETTER?

NO, PRINCE -COUGH-
HAILSTORM. THEY'RE GETTING
WORSE. BUT -COUGH COUGH
COUGH-

THERE'S-
SOMEONE
ELSE.

WHEEEEEEZE

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S HAPPENED?

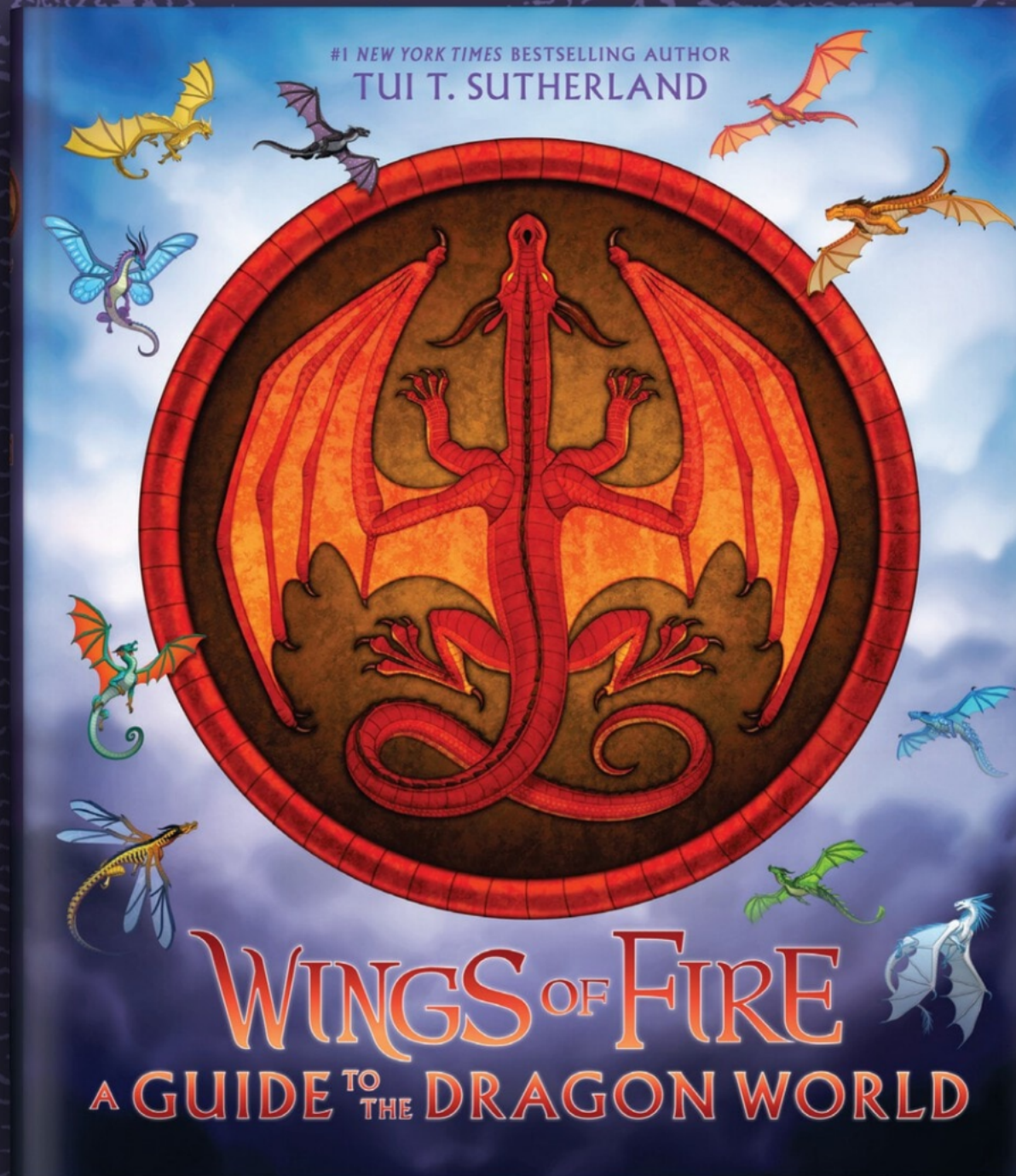
IT'S **QUEEN GLACIER**.
SHE -COUGH- GOT -COUGH-
THE PLAGUE FIRST, THREE
DAYS AGO.

I KNOW.

I'M SORRY, PRINCE
HAILSTORM. IT'S OVER.
-COUGH COUGH-

THE QUEEN OF THE
ICEWINGS IS DEAD.

TEN TRIBES.
TWO CONTINENTS.
THREE MOONS.



LIMITLESS STORIES — TOLD BY
THE DRAGONS THEMSELVES.

AVAILABLE NOW!

DISCOVER THE
WORLD OF **WT**



TUI T. SUTHERLAND is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Wings of Fire series, the Menagerie trilogy, and the Pet Trouble series, as well as a contributing author to the bestselling Spirit Animals and Seekers series (as part of the Erin Hunter team). In 2009, she was a two-day champion on *Jeopardy!* She lives in Massachusetts with her wonderful husband, two awesome sons, and two very patient dogs. To learn more about Tui's books, visit her online at www.tuibooks.com.

BARRY DEUTSCH is an award-winning cartoonist and the creator of the Hereville series of graphic novels, about yet another troll-fighting 11-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with a variable number of cats and fish.

MIKE HOLMES is the author and illustrator of the book *My Own World*; has drawn for the series Secret Coders, Adventure Time, and Bravest Warriors; and was a regular contributor to *MAD* Magazine. He created the comic strip *True Story* and the art project *Mikenesses*. He's from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and now lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Meredith, and son, Oscar, along with Heidi the dog and Louise the cat. Much love to our dear departed Ella.

MAARTA LAIHO spends her days and nights as a comic colorist, where her work includes the comics series Lumberjanes, Adventure Time, and the Mighty Zodiac. When she's not doing that, she can be found hoarding houseplants and talking to her cat. She lives in the woods of Maine.